Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the proposal for a Social Security buy-back for the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL

About 200 line up for the SDA Clinic's "Clinic With a Heart" event.

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NATION

It is being called one of this city's goriest crimes: A man biting off another man's face. ➤ PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

Isaac Lamb's marriage proposal has upped the stakes for everyone who follows. ➤ PAGE 19

March visitor arrivals up 19 percent. PAGE 2
Guam, NMI soldiers return from 3-week training. PAGE 13

Judge inclined to junk Fund case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The judge handling the NMI Retirement Fund's bankruptcy petition has issued a tentative ruling, saying he is inclined to dismiss the case on the ground that the Fund is a "governmental unit" and is not eligible for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

» 'Fund's board should be praised, not criticized, for filing bankruptcy petition'

Judge Robert J. Faris of the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division noted, however, that his tentative

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'Focus now on prolonging Fund's lifespan'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration and the Legislature, along with retirees and active members, welcomed yesterday U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert Faris' tentative ruling that he is inclined to dismiss the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

"It's a foregone conclusion that the bankruptcy filing will be dismissed. I wasn't surprised at all that the judge will be dismissing it," Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

» Emergency declaration in the offing for Fund

He said the more important thing now is to "go back to Judge [Kenneth] Govendo's June 15 deadline for all parties involved to come up with a solution and legislative initiatives to prolong the Fund's

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PRAYING FOR THE WAR DEAD

Members of the Micronesian Repatriation Association offer incense and prayers for all those who perished in the war on Saipan during the group's 43rd memorial ceremony at the Okinawa Peace Memorial in Marpi yesterday morning. CLARISSA V. DAVID

A C-130 lands on Tinian's North Field Baker runway. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Marine Wing Support Squadron-171, Marine Aircraft Group-12, the runway has been cleared of the jungle that over the past 65 years had taken over what was once largest single airport in the Pacific, and from which the atomic bombs that brought an unconditional end to World War II were launched in 1945. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAG-12 achieves another first

By LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN—Servicemembers participating in Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 achieved another hallmark in history with the landing of a C-130 on the Baker runway, a runway that hasn't been used for over 60 years, on North Field here, May 30, 2012.

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HEALTH WALK
JUNE 2, 2012
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field
– Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS
Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

Local

March visitor arrivals up 19 percent

March 2012 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 19 percent compared to March 2011.

According to data issued by the Marianas Visitors Authority yesterday, visitor arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota totaled 36,033 in March compared to 30,376 in March 2011. Overall, visitor arrivals are up 8 percent so far this fiscal year to 198,014 visitors.

Arrivals from Japan dropped 3 percent to 16,742 in March, as the CNMI received just two daily flights from Narita for most of the month, compared to three daily flights in March 2011.

Due to high demand during the peak travel season, however, Delta Air Lines operated a third weekly flight, and Asiana Airlines relaunched daily service from Osaka in December. Japan still comprises the largest percentage of visitors to the Northern Marianas.

Saipan Air is scheduled to launch daily flights from Narita beginning July 1, and daily flights from Osaka beginning Aug. 1, which will have a major impact on Japanese arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands in the second half of this year.

Arrivals from Korea posted a second month of double-digit increase, up 33 percent to 9,431 visitors. Asiana Airlines operated its Busan-Saipan charter flights from November 2011 to April 2012. In addition, Asiana Airlines will resume regular second weekly service from Busan to Saipan starting June 13. This regular service had been suspended from June of last year due to lack of available aircraft.

Arrivals from China grew exponentially in March, increasing 157 percent to 6,779 visitors. The number of airseats more than doubled in February 2012 compared to February 2011, as last year, the Northern Marianas only had two flights per week from Shanghai, plus three charters from Beijing. So far this fiscal year, the Northern Marianas has received 92 percent more visitors from China as the same period last year.

Continued strong growth is also projected for the second half of this year with Saipan Air scheduled to launch four flights a week from Beijing beginning July 1, and three flights a week from Shenyang beginning Aug. 2. These new Saipan Air routes from China will provide the CNMI with regularly scheduled service out of two key markets in northern China, and together with the Shanghai and Guangzhou flights, represent a total of 13 direct flights from China to Saipan every week.

Meanwhile, arrivals were also up from Russia (6 percent to 688), the Philippines (34 percent increase to 47), and Other Areas (6 percent to 270). However, arrivals were lower in March from the United States (28 percent to 813), Guam (8 percent to 1,205), and Hong Kong (19 percent to 58).

Economic highlights

The Japanese Cabinet Office's March 2012 report states that Japan's economy continues to pick up slowly. On March 29, 2012, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimated that Japan's GDP will grow 3.4 percent in the January to March quarter, the highest growth of any of the G7 countries including the United States, Germany, and France.

Growth is slowing for the Korean economy, which is experiencing moderate inflation. The won/dollar exchange rate increased 8.01 from previous month to close at 1,132.89, as disappointing economic data surrounding the world's major economies caused an appreciation of the dollar. ***(MVA)***

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• Gas up or sign up for the NEW Lucky 7 Gold Card
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$42K for patients and programs, $67.5K in retro pay on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday into local law a bill appropriating $42,000 in poker license fees for Tinian patients and programs, while Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's office also released yesterday some $67,500 in partial retroactive salary payments to 135 municipal employees.

Inos signed House Local Bill 17-72 Draft 1 into Tinian Local Law 17-11, giving $21,000—the bulk of the total $42,000—for the monthly subsistence allowance of Tinian patients on dialysis and those with cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder, dermatomytositis, and post-cerebral vascular accident patients.

The other $5,000 was appropriated to the Tinian Mayor's Office for emergency medical referral assistance.

The remaining $16,000 was also appropriated to the Tinian Mayor's Office to defray the cost of the Little League Program district tournament, $5,000; the Aging Program's May 2012 trip to Guam, $3,000; and for the mayor's office operations, $8,000.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) authored the local bill.

Retroactive pay

The Tinian Mayor's Office also issued yesterday the second 14-percent retroactive salary payments, from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

Dela Cruz, in a phone interview, said they issued $500 each to 135 municipal employees covered by retroactive salary laws.

"This retroactive salary payment is the responsibility of the CNMI central government, but my administration, the Tinian municipal government and its local leaders are taking it upon themselves to fulfill this obligation for the people who have waited for this for far too long," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Conner, in a separate interview, said the Tinian leadership is fulfilling a campaign promise.

"Everyone benefits if we all work together. The mayor is right, this is a CNMI central government responsibility but the Tinian leadership is the one taking the initiative to fulfill that responsibility," he added.

Conner and Dela Cruz said the Tinian mayor's office, the Tinian Legislative Delegation and the Tinian Municipal Council will continue to make available funds to gradually pay all outstanding retroactive salaries as funds are identified and appropriated.

"Five hundred dollars is a small amount for some but these days, that amount could go a long way to help families. Every time we pay vendors and pay the salaries of our employees and there are leftover funds, we put that into an account to make sure it goes to the payment of retroactive salaries. This is the second time we made partial payments, when we had more collections from casino revenues, for example," the mayor added.

Sentencing of ex-detention guard continues today

The federal court began yesterday the sentencing hearing of Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, a former detention guard who has pleaded guilty to enticing a minor.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom past 5pm, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona was still presiding over the hearing. *Saipan Tribune* later learned that Manglona will continue the hearing today, Thursday.

Fitial has already been in custody for 720 days as of yesterday.

» Guardian discloses that victim a multi-abused child

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons Jr. called three persons to the witness stand, including attorney Bruce Mailman, who is serving as guardian *ad litem* for the girl and her brother.

Describing the girl as a "multi-abused" child, Mailman said the sexual abuse began when she was just 12. Three men, including Fitial, were involved, according to Mailman, but he conceded that Fitial was not involved in the sexual abuse at the time when the girl was 12.

Mailman related that when he first met the girl after being appointed her guardian in April 2010, she was then 13, very silent, and couldn't look at anyone directly.

Now the girl is into sports, talks, and laughs, Mailman said. "It's an amazing turnaround. Her behavior is not entirely normal, but progressing."

He said the girl's current foster parents devote much of their time taking care of her and that the girl remains afraid of Fitial and is scared of meeting the defendant.

Mailman said the girl's brother was at one point in trouble for harassing or intimidating a person and was utterly terrified when told that he would be going back to the Juvenile Detention Unit.

Mailman said that both children were severely traumatized.

Fitial was accused of forcing three wards at the Juvenile Detention Unit to engage in sex acts. He pleaded guilty to enticing a minor, but not actual sexual penetration.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, who first handled the case, had stated that between October 2009 and February 2010, Fitial, who was then a guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit, had a phone conversation of a sexual nature with a female 13 to 14 years old. Benedetto said it was Fitial's intent to get the girl to meet with him.

Fitial's defense attorney is Michael Evangelista. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Emergency power outage on Sat.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled power outage this Saturday, June 2, 2012, from 5:30am to 8:30am affecting Navy Hill on Saipan.

The purpose of the outage is to allow CUC's line crew to replace two rotten primary power poles on Navy Hill. Additionally, crews will be performing line clearing in the area while the primary lines are de-energized.

Areas affected include the Navy Hill Rd., Chief Radahao Lane, Chief Poyo Court, Gloria Drive, Magas Loop, Diboto Lane, Delgado Drive, Kotdura Laine, Isa Drive, Grurupu Drive, Fuesta Loop, Victoria Avenue, Documento Lane, Fitmi Place, Suneta Place, Manamko Place, Afal Street, Guela Avenue, Kaftan Avenue, and Denfeld Lane to Chalan Galaide.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through these areas. ***(CUC)***

31st Year Anniversary Special Continues
Lunch 11:00am - 3:00pm $5.00 only
June Lunch Bento Special
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Tuesday: Fried Chicken, Grilled Sanma, Salad, Coco, Rice, Ramen
Wednesday: Shrimp Tempura, Sweet & sour Pork, Salad, Coco, Rice, Ramen
Thursday: Fried Squid, Nikomi Hamburger Steak, Salad, Coco, Rice, Ramen
Friday: Shrimp Tempura, Teriyaki Chicken, Salad, Coco, Rice, Ramen
Sat/Sun: Meat Sauce Spaghetti, Fried Chicken, Salad
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- Cultural Diversity & Team Work
- Basic Budgeting & Time Management
The Bridge Project
Next Session Starts June 4 @ 6pm
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Room 305, Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe
For more information, call Jill @ 287-9395
or Jim @ 287-7037 • email deltamgt@pticom.com.
THE BRIDGE PROJECT
Participants must commit to the full set of classes, be eligible to work in the US and be unemployed.
Program funded through a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs and the NMI Department of Commerce

Okinawans reminisce about Saipan before and during war

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Being back on Saipan dredges up vivid island memories for 82-year-old Zenichi Taira.

"It was a nice town and we called it a paradise," said Taira. "We enjoyed it very, very much. Garapan, where I was raised, had many, many facilities and stores 68 years ago."

War, however, came to Saipan and Taira, who was then attending middle school, was among those who narrowly escaped the horrors of the conflict when he returned to his hometown in Okinawa in his early teens to care for an ailing grandmother.

Some 7,000 Okinawans on island were not as lucky and were among the casualties of the Battle of Saipan.

"Fortunately, I came back to Okinawa and since then, we don't forget our people who died here. That's very important. We come here and hold a memorial service as our obligation. Thanks to these people, we're still alive," said Taira.

Taira said that flame trees also grow in Okinawa "and every time we see one, it reminds us of Saipan."

Taira, chairman of the Micronesia Repatriation Association, led 84 members of the group in a memorial service at the Tower of Okinawa or Okinawa Peace Memorial site in Marpi yesterday morning.

MRA, composed of Okinawans raised on the islands before and during the war and their family members, marked their 43rd memorial ceremony on Saipan.

A similar ceremony will be held on Tinian at 10am today, which marks the group's 35th memorial on the southern island, where 3,000 more Okinawans perished during the war.

For Seiji Nakasone, he remembered growing up in San Vicente right before the war. "When the war came, my family moved to the northern part of the island," said Nakasone, pointing to the Marpi area.

Nakasone's family, who owns cattle at that time, had to leave their livestock behind as they had to go into hiding in the caves.

Taking cover was difficult, according to Nasone, because it was challenging to find food and water for the whole family, and they had to keep moving and hide in one place after another.

"My brother said, 'I will go out from our hiding place and bring back water.' He took a bucket and left but he never came back," he recalled, sadly.

Encumbered by the lack of food and water, the family left their hiding place and that's when Nakasone got hit by a bullet in the right leg, rendering him unable to walk at that time.

After being caught by American soldiers, Nakasone was brought to the hospital where he was given food and water. Later, he joined his family in Camp Susupe where they stayed for a year before going back to Okinawa.

"After the war, I came back to Saipan where we were welcomed by locals, some of whom can speak Okinawan. They have already died and I miss them. Since then, I would come back to this island and pray for my brother and all the others who died. I like to come back here because it's my favorite old island," said Nakasone.

According to Taira, MRA members also obligate the younger generations in their family so that the tradition of praying for the war dead will carry on in the years to come.

"We remind them that 68 years ago, many, many people died here," Taira told *Saipan Tribune*. "As long as we're healthy and alive, we will continue to come here and pray. And we appreciate it that people from here take care of us each time."

Yesterday's ceremony began with a silent prayer led by Asami Ginoza followed by opening remarks by MRA's Eibun Yamaguchi. San Roque Parish priest Fr. Raul Salgado also offered prayers.

Remarks were delivered by MRA's Taira as well as Bereaved Family United Association representatives Takeaki Oshiro and Nakasone.

Oshiro and Taira led the incense offering, joined by island leaders, Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, and the rest of the attendees and local guests.

"We appreciate that every time we have this kind of ceremony, the local community participates. We appreciate it so much. We want to continue the friendship with the locals. It's very important to associate with them after the ceremony," added Taira.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Some 86 members of the Micronesian Repatriation Association pose for a group photo before the memorial ceremony at the Okinawa Peace Memorial in Marpi yesterday morning.

MAG-12

From Page 1

"This has been a great improvement in readiness for us," said Lt. Col. Michael C. Taylor, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 commanding officer. "Tinian is a new location. The Marines are excited about it and it has a lot of historical tie-ins as well, so this is very significant. Compared to most other exercises, we're employing the majority of our capabilities here on Tinian during Geiger Fury."

Along with Marines and sailors who watched as the C-130 made its descent onto the newly repaired runway, airmen viewed the momentous occasion as well.

"We were invited by Lt. Col. Taylor to observe operations and look at future chances of joint Marine Corps, Air Force operations," said Air Force Lt. Col. Bill Percival, 36th Mobility Response Squadron director of operations. "What the Marines have done to this airfield is nothing short of amazing. Looking at the photographs prior, showing where there was so much vegetation and in a short time, you guys made it into a useable [landing zone], extending the capabilities you can bring to the fight, that in itself is impressive. I'm just also excited to see what we can add to a joint capability here in the Pacific. But, I just can't say enough about what the Marines have done here."

The Marines who spent the past weeks transforming Baker into a suitable runway for landings took time after the plane touched down to pose in front of the now famous aircraft, the propeller blades still spinning and kicking up dust behind the proud group.

"To take a surface which has not been used in so many years and have a team come in and make it into an assault-capable landing zone is just phenomenal," said Percival. "It says a lot, not only for Marine Aircraft Group 12's capabilities, but it also speaks a lot for the Marines."

While Exercise Geiger Fury has focused on military achievements, it needs to be remembered that such accomplishments would not be possible without the support of the local community.

"I am very grateful for the Marines coming to Tinian," said Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz. "We love having the Marines here. Tinian is a very historic site and it has been waiting for the Marines to come back and follow in the footsteps of their forefathers."

FUND

From Page 1

ruling is subject to further reflection and oral argument on Friday.

Faris said that Congress did not intend the Bankruptcy Code to solve all problems, least of all the financial problems of governmental units.

"The dismissal of this case will leave the Fund and its beneficiaries at the mercy of the Commonwealth government, but Congress intended that the elected branches of the local government, rather than a federal court, should address such problems," said Faris in the order issued Tuesday.

At the same time, Faris said that the Fund's board of trustees should be praised, not criticized, for commencing the bankruptcy case.

"The trustees find themselves in an intolerable position. The Fund, for which they are responsible, is caught between an irresistible force—obligations to retirees which it cannot pay—and an immovable object—the government, which has persistently failed to pay its debt to the Fund," Faris said. "The trustees' attempt to find a solution to this dilemma is creative and praiseworthy, even though I am inclined to rule that it cannot succeed."

Attorney Bruce Jorgensen's group, counsel for two unnamed retirees, first brought up the motion to dismiss on the ground that the Fund's structure and statutory existence makes it a "governmental unit" of the CNMI and therefore ineligible to file for Chapter 11 protection.

This was followed by motions to dismiss on the same ground filed by the U.S. Trustee, two retirees, former Tinian senator Esteven M. King, the CNMI government, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The motions to dismiss are among several motions that will be heard in court on Friday at 9am.

In his tentative ruling, Faris said that only a "person" may be a debtor in a Chapter 11 case and that the term "person" does not include government units.

Faris said the question thus boils down to whether the Fund is an "instrumentality" of the CNMI government.

"Here the web of statutory definitions ends. The Bankruptcy Code does not define the term instrumentality," the judge said.

The next step then is to look to the "plain meaning" of the word but unfortunately, Faris said, the word "instrumentality" has "no unique or canonical meaning" and no single "plain meaning."

Faris said that reading the term "governmental unit" in the broadest sense, as Congress intended, and emphasizing the function of the Fund, he is inclined to hold that the Fund is an "instrumentality" of the Commonwealth.

The government, Faris said, formed the Fund as a means of carrying out the government's obligations to its current and retired employees.

The Commonwealth has significant ongoing influence over the Fund, he added, pointing out that the governor appoints the Fund's trustees and the Legislature specifies (and from time to time changes) to whom the Fund must pay benefits and in what amounts.

Perhaps more importantly, Faris said, the government "provides (or rather, is supposed to provide) virtually all of the Fund's funding and resources."

Faris said the Fund has no "customers" other than the government and its employees and retirees.

The judge said the Fund does literally nothing other than carry out the government's duties.

FOCUS

From Page 1

lifespan."

Faris, in his tentative ruling, said that Congress intended elected branches of the local government to address problems like the Fund's insolvency.

On April 17, the NMI Retirement Fund became the first public pension agency on American soil to seek bankruptcy protection.

Manglona said it's "very unfortunate that the Fund had to spend thousands of dollars in legal fees" for the bankruptcy case, including a $475-an-hour rate for one of the many Fund lawyers working on the issue.

The Fitial administration, meanwhile, is poised to place the Fund under a state of emergency once the federal court makes a final ruling on the Fund's bankruptcy filing.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the executive order that will place the Fund under a state of emergency "is still a work in progress."

Demapan said the Fitial administration took the position that the bankruptcy petition would not be sustained.

"Although not final yet, the judge's tentative decision is seemingly consistent with the administration's position that bankruptcy is not the appropriate approach to addressing the budget and policy issues of the retirement system. It is important to note that just as the administration believes, the judge also noted that resolution of retirement issues should be a function of policymakers, not the courts," Demapan added.

He said the administration is now reviewing the decision and seeking legal advice on what is to follow once a final decision has been rendered.

The Senate president, meanwhile, said the administration's planned emergency declaration for the Fund may be necessary but it does not solve the fact that the government should make payments to the Fund. The government owes the Fund some $300 million in unpaid employer contributions.

With the expected dismissal of the Fund's bankruptcy filing, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the government should get rid of the Fund's unfunded liability, allow active members who have contributed more than 15 years to withdraw their contributions or better yet, the Legislature should override the governor's veto of House Bill 17-226, which allows non-retired Fund members to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions.

Cabrera will push for the override in today's House session at 2pm.

The speaker also said he hopes the Senate will reconsider its opposition to legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, to help boost the economy, along with the launch of Saipan Air on July 1.

Joe Pangelinan, who is leading a group of non-retired Fund members, said it's "good news" that the federal court is poised to dismiss the Fund bankruptcy filing.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said the dismissal of the Fund bankruptcy filing will allow the Legislature and the Executive Branch, along with the Fund, retirees and active members, to work more closely together to help everyone.

Manglona reiterated his call for the House passage of his Senate Legislative Initiative 17-15 SD1 setting aside 25 percent of the government's annual revenue to pay the government's employer contribution to the Fund.

He said there are also House measures that the Senate is waiting for, including an initiative on a pension obligation bond and cuts in tax rebate.

Fund seeks reduction of benefit payments by 25 percent

The NMI Retirement Fund has sought the court's authority to continue its payments to beneficiaries but with a cut in benefit payments by 25 percent.

The Fund, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI's Bankruptcy Division for the continued payments to beneficiaries for eight pay periods, for a total of four months—June 30, July 15, July 31, Aug. 15, Aug. 31, Sept. 15, Sept. 30, and Oct. 15.

Beneficiaries who currently get more than $6,000 per year shall receive the greater of $6,000 (on an annualized basis) or 75 percent of their current benefit, said Huesman in the Fund's proposal filed in court on Tuesday.

Beneficiaries who currently receive $6,000 or less per year shall continue to receive their full benefit payment, without cuts, he said.

"The interim proposal, in aggregate, will reduce each semi-monthly benefit payout by approximately $645,000 (from approximately $3,075,000 to approximately $2,430,000)," the lawyer said citing a declaration by Fund administrator Richard Villagomez.

Huesman said that based on the most current actuarial data available, this reduction alone will prolong the life of the Fund by about a year.

Huesman said the Fund believes that the period requested—four months of court-approved payments—is appropriate because it provides beneficiaries with the ability to plan for the potential need for a further reduction after at least two, and up to four, months of payments.

The period requested, he said, will allow the Fund to request a further reduction in benefits for the last two months of the four-month period.

This requested period, Huesman added, will allow the Creditors' Committee, which has only recently formed, to provide greater input on any follow-on proposal necessary to provide a bridge until a plan or reorganization can be formulated and proposed for confirmation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Rally today to pressure House to override veto of HB 17-226

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A group of non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund led by Joe Pangelinan is staging a peaceful rally at 2pm today, hoping to put pressure on House members to support Speaker Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) push for an override of the governor's veto of House Bill 17-226.

Cabrera's HB 17-226 allows the non-retired members of the Fund's defined benefit plan to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions. The governor vetoed the bill on Friday.

"We don't want the Fund to go from bad to worse. They should allow us to withdraw our contributions. That's our money. I myself have been in government for almost 29 years. I put my money in the Fund, so please let us have access to our own money," Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He called on non-retired Fund members to join the rally on Capital Hill today.

"We plan to fill up the House chamber to make an impact," he added.

Pangelinan said with the anticipated dismissal of the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, the government and all parties involved will have to go back to Judge Kenneth Govendo's June 15 deadline to come up with a plan to help the Fund.

"There are still many uncertainties but one of the best options to help us and the Fund is to allow non-retired members to withdraw our contributions. We worked with the Legislature for a compromise access to only up to 50 percent and not 100 percent of our contributions," he added.

Pangelinan believes that even if they withdraw up to 50 percent of their Fund contributions, there will still be enough to cover a five-year buyback into the U.S. Social Security system.

"Talking about just 'leftovers' from the buyback is an overkill," he added.

The speaker, in a separate interview, said he hopes his colleagues in the House will support a move to override the governor's veto.

"Let's give our government employees' money back. Our people have been losing their house and cars because they could no longer pay the mortgage. This is their time of need, and it's our obligation as leaders to help them," Cabrera said.

Under the vetoed bill, active members of the Fund would be allowed to take back up to 50 percent of their employee contributions regardless of years of service and without penalty or the need for them to quit their job. The rest of their employee contributions will be rolled over to the Fund's defined contribution plan.

Reps. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) reiterated their support to an override of HB 17-226's veto.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately said he would also support an override should there be a push in the Senate for such.

"Government employees should have access to their money. Because of the failure of the government to remit its employer contribution, why do employees have to be penalized? All this is going on because there's a lack of faith in the Fund now to protect all its members," Torres added.

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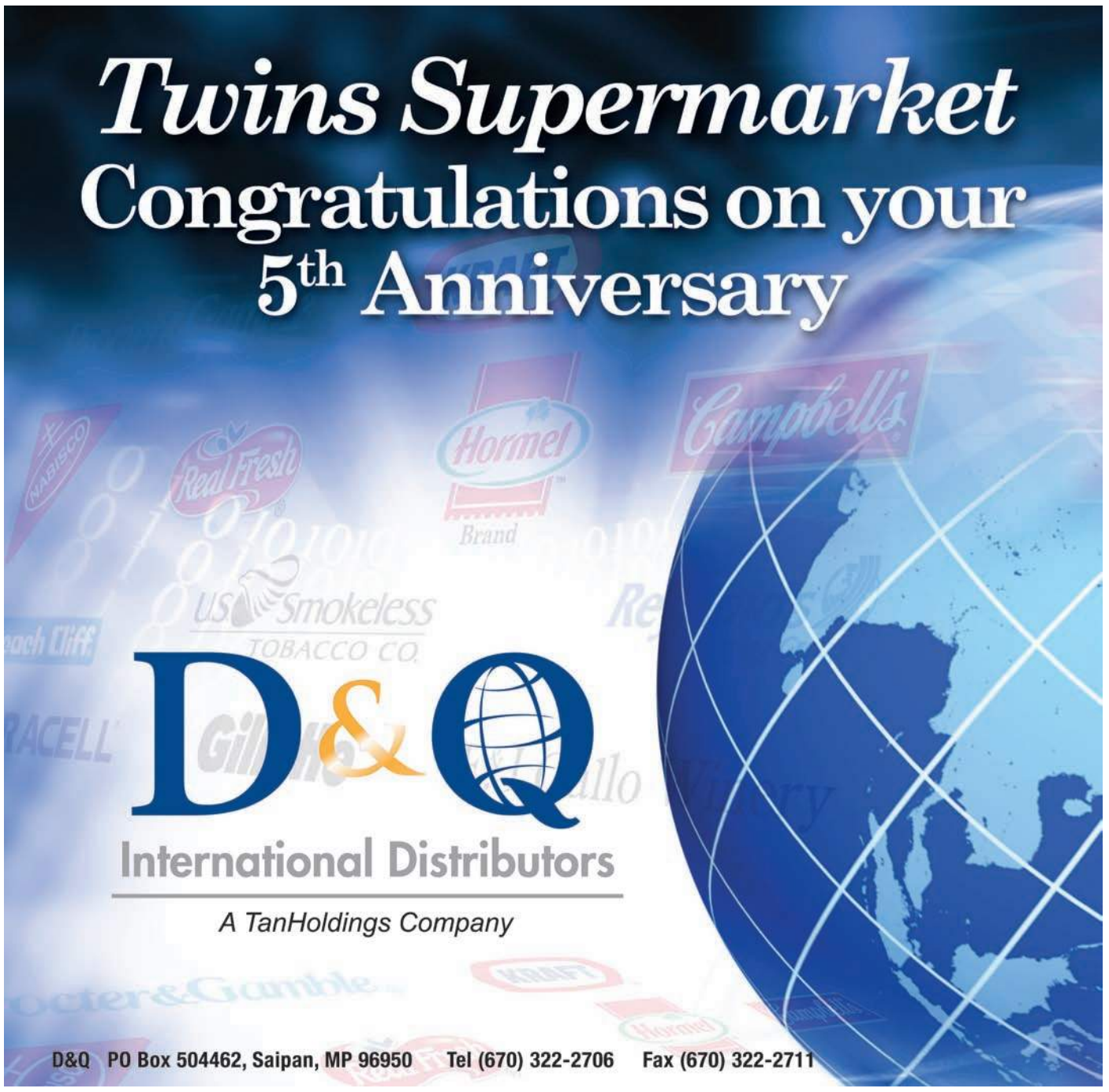

Ocampo, Camacho lead Mount Carmel graduates

BILLIE RYMAN PENSADER OCAMPO
Valedictorian

LOURENCE JASON C. CAMACHO
Salutatorian

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two male graduates dominated the Mount Carmel High School Class of 2012. Billie Ryman Pensader Ocampo was named valedictorian while Lourence Jason C. Camacho was honored with the salutatorian award during commencement exercises held Saturday at the school grounds.

The older of two sons, the 18-year-old Ocampo is the son of Marida Pensader and stepdad Hugh Muscat. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the school's Red Cross and Theater clubs and competed in various academic contests, including Mathcourt and Science Fair.

Ocampo was also bestowed other awards, including the President's Award for Meritorious Achievement, Governor's Leadership Award, and President's Award for Academic Excellence.

"I feel honored and happy to get all these awards. I wasn't really expecting it. Throughout high school, I just studied hard and did all my class work and homework," said Ocampo.

He is set to leave for the University of Washington in Seattle in August, where he will take a pre-medicine course leading to his dream of becoming a doctor specializing in pediatrics.

Ocampo ascribed his academic achievement to his parents and teachers at Mount Carmel. "They were really supportive and really pushed me to strive for my best."

Salutatorian Camacho advised students aspiring to graduate at the top of their class not to procrastinate. "The worst thing that would hinder you is yourself," the 17-year-old lad told *Saipan Tribune*. "Usually when you're doing work, you're only problem is either you're lazy to do it or you feel like doing something else. The main thing is just to focus and don't procrastinate."

Camacho, the younger of two sons of Luis and the late Florenda Camacho, was also presented with honorable mention for several awards.

Camacho was active in the school's Drama and Red Cross clubs and took part in the Mock Trial, Math Court, and We the People events. He was also a member of the Mount Carmel Cathedral Youth Choir as a freshman and sophomore.

He has been accepted to Santa Clara University, where he plans to study engineering.

"I've always excelled in mathematics so I decided to major in engineering, although I'm still trying to decide what kind of engineering I should focus on," he added.

The only private Catholic high school on island graduated 20 seniors this school year.

12th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 1:00 P.M.
(Please take note that the meeting time has been changed from 1:00 P.M. to 11:00 A.M.)
BOE Conference Room, Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. Unfinished Business
1) School Calendar for SY 2012-2013
2) Whistle Blower Protection Policy Proposal
3) Sick Leave Policy Proposal

IV. New Business
1) CUC Billing
2) NMI Retirement Fund Issues
3) SY 2012-2013 Proposed Lunch Menu
4) Federal Programs Officer Salary Adjustment

V. Executive Session
1) Legal Updates
2) Personnel
3) Other matters

VI. Miscellaneous Matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

TWINS SUPERMARKET
Congratulations on your 5th Anniversary!
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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Some 200 line up for SDA Clinic's 'Clinic With a Heart'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dental services amounting to nearly $18,000 were provided for free by the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic during its "Clinic With a Heart" event on Sunday.

The amount is expected to increase in the coming weeks since it does not include the vouchers that were given away to those who have yet to be served by the SDA Clinic's staff, said dental hygienist Lori Serna.

Serna disclosed that about 200 individuals lined up outside the SDA Clinic along Quartermaster Road to avail of the free dental services.

Of the 200 patients, only the first 41 were provided services totaling $17,847. The next 59 were provided vouchers, and they will be asked to come to the clinic in the next two weeks.

The remaining 100 will most likely be called in September or toward the latter part of the year for another free dental clinic that will no longer be open to the rest of the public.

Services provided on Sunday included deep or therapeutic cleanings, gum therapy, fillings, and extractions, among others. SDA Clinic also gave away antibiotics and other medicines.

Serna pointed out that Sunday's turnout demonstrates the great need for free dental services on the island.

"It really does show that times are changing on Saipan and we're very fortunate to be able to help those people that really don't have anywhere else to go. The community supports SDA so we're able to give back to the community. These are definitely hard times for people," Serna told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dr. Kenneth Pierson, SDA clinic director, described the turnout as "overwhelming." "It would be nice to provide even more services but our capacity is also limited. We're hoping to make it a communitywide effort in the future," he added.

Some people were already lined up as early as Saturday night.

Chalan Kiya resident Eva Cuevas was the first in line, camping out outside the clinic at 7pm on Saturday with her 5-year-old daughter Jane Nicole. Both Eva and Jane Nicole received tooth extraction services.

"I wanted to make sure that my daughter and I get a spot," said Eva Cuevas who has complained of pain in her front teeth for three months.

She said she found out about Clinic With a Heart through a newspaper ad and called the clinic to confirm. "What we did was we brought the essentials—food, water, extra clothes—when we camped outside the clinic. We slept in our car and SDA was gracious enough to let us use their restroom."

Cuevas praised SDA Clinic for being the only private dental clinic to provide this kind of community service, which is of great help to those who don't have dental insurance. "I won't be able to afford extraction for myself and my daughter if I'm going to pay for it out of my own pocket," she said.

Her daughter, Jane Nicole, said the clinic staff also taught her the importance of taking care of her teeth. "They told me to brush my teeth and they gave me free toothbrush."

Gina Reyes, 53, said she and two other friends came all the way from Fina Sisu and lined up outside the clinic at midnight. "Clinic With a Heart is a good project because generally, dental services on island are expensive. That's why many people take advantage of it," she said.

SDA's Serna urged other dental clinics to help address the dental health and oral hygiene problem in the community by providing free dental services for a day or a few hours, volunteering their time at SDA during Clinic With a Heart, or by doing presentations in schools and giving hygiene instructions.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Chalan Kiya resident Eva Cuevas, on the dental chair, is treated by Dr. Sarah-Jane Harebottle Shearer and dental assistant Atsuko Eck of the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic during the "Clinic With a Heart" event last May 27.

"I know these are hard times for everybody but we all need to come together to help the people and help each other," she said.

Serna thanked all radio stations, church groups, and other organizations that help promote the event.

Clinic With a Heart was started by the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in the U.S. mainland. Many of the SDA staff are Loma Linda alumni.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hidden Beach red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Hidden Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Samples collected from this site had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Lt. Gov. Inos on *Marianas Agupa*

This Saturday, June 2, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos who will talk about the Retirement Fund's active employees to move into the U.S. Social Security pension program and his proposal for a hybrid bill similar to the H.B. 17-226 that was vetoed by Gov. Benigno Fitial. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use instant messaging on the Facebook account of Marianas Agupa). The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

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Marine monument council sets inaugural meeting

The Mariana Monument Advisory Council is holding its inaugural meeting for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument on June 5-6, from 8:30am to 4pm at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The public is invited to attend and observe the meeting. There will be opportunities for members of the public to provide comments to monument managers from 4pm to 5pm on both days.

The intergovernmental advisory council's objectives for the two-day meeting are for the MMAC members to adopt procedures to govern its activities, hear operational reports from monument managers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, and to provide initial advice and recommendations to both agencies for management planning.

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodations to participate in the public meetings are invited to contact Angela Butsch at 1-888-812-5759 (voice) or 503-234-6263 (TTY) or angela_butsch@fws.gov.

For any updates on this meeting or additional information about the Monument and its two refuges, visit http://www.fws.gov/marianastrench-marinemonument and http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/MNM/mnm_index.html. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard improves regional capabilities

APRA HARBOR, Guam— Coast Guard units in Guam are receiving technology upgrades and new capabilities to better serve the people of Guam and the CNMI.

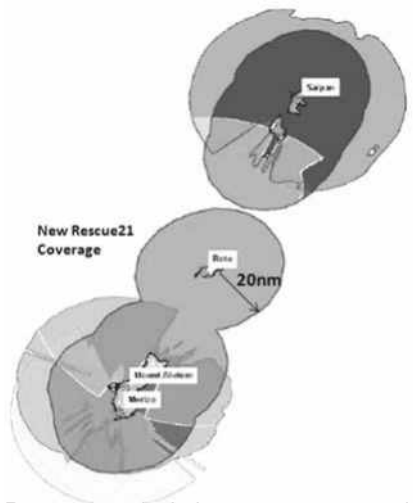
Starting today, Sector Guam will bring online the Rescue 21 communications system. Aptly dubbed "911 for mariners," Rescue 21 enhances clarity of distress calls, upgrades the playback and recording feature of distress calls, is interoperable with local agency communication systems, and adds a direction finding capability that will help search and rescue watchstanders pinpoint the source of the distress call out on the water.

VHF radio communications capabilities throughout the region will increase notably with the rollout of Rescue 21, which includes new antennas in Guam and on Rota and Saipan. The system boasts 98.9 percent coverage of the waters between Guam and Saipan out to 20 miles and, in some areas, coverage extends well beyond 20 miles.

"With this significant improvement of communications coverage in the region, it is important to stress the importance of carrying a VHF radio on board your boat or other pleasure craft," said Capt. Casey White, Sector Guam commander. "We commonly see local mariners in distress reach for their cell phones, but with this new system, making a distress call on channel 16 on a VHF radio will help take the search out of search and rescue, saving time and saving lives."

USCG

Station Apra Harbor's new 45-foot Response Boat-Medium can conduct search and rescue and law enforcement operations over 50 miles from shore, and is rugged enough to operate in 12-foot seas.



Rescue 21 includes new antennas in Guam and on Rota and Saipan. The system boasts 98.9 percent coverage of the waters between Guam and Saipan out to 20 miles and, in some areas, coverage extends well beyond 20 miles.

USCG

This new system will even pick up and provide direction finding capabilities from a 1 watt handheld radio transmission by a kayaker up to 20 miles offshore.

Another recent addition is Station Apra Harbor's new 45-foot Response Boat-Medium, or RB-M. The RB-M can conduct search and rescue and law enforcement operations over 50 miles from shore, and is rugged enough to operate in 12-foot seas, vastly improving ability to respond to the areas north and east of Guam where seas are especially rough throughout the year.

The RB-M is equipped with a jet drive system that offers greater speed and maneuverability. The boat is packed with new communications technology and search capabilities including a Forward Looking Infrared camera.

"FLIR will enhance the Station's ability to search at night, as the technology uses heat imaging to highlight objects in the water," said Senior Chief Nicholas Pavlik, officer-in-charge of Station Apra Harbor. "Flares, flashlights and other signaling devices should be on board your vessel, even if you don't plan to be out after sunset, always plan for the unexpected." A second RB-M is scheduled to arrive on island in September this year.

Finally, the Coast Guard is implementing the LA51, a non-lethal signaling and warning device to support the service's ports waterways and coastal security mission, and the equipment has just arrived in Guam.

The LA51 is fired from a 12-gauge military shotgun to produce a visible signal at a range of 100 meters. The device is considered a safer alternative to the current warning devices used by Coast Guard personnel. It is a shorter range round, and the flash and noise produced by the device are more prominent than a splash in the water caused by the M16 tracer round. Additionally, the Department of Defense's joint non-lethal weapons program has determined through their testing that the LA51 has a significantly low risk of injury.

Once training is complete, the warning device will be used for security zone enforcement in Guam and the CNMI.

"We are excited about the increased capability these new resources will bring to the region. The Coast Guard's investment in Rescue 21 and the RB-M will save lives locally by improving our search and rescue abilities," said Capt. Casey White. ***(USCG)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MIAO WANG LARIMER Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0205
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
KELLY S. LARIMER Respondent	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1192 P.O. Box 10003 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

Margarita Naputi Tenorio
P.O. Box 502665 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 670-288-6263

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: K.T.N.T. Minor Child By: Margarita Naputi Tenorio Petitioner (s)	)	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0223 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 2, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before the Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 24th day of May, 2012

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 31, 1999

Cepeda seeks CNMI-US dialog

Joining the bandwagon of opposition to the continuous attacks against the Northern Marianas, a legislator on Friday called on President Clinton to hold a mutual dialogue with island officials in efforts to bridge differences that have harmed relations between CNMI and Washington. Rep. Frank Cepeda, chair of the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations, also denied accusations leveled against the Commonwealth by various interest groups in the mainland as well as some U.S. lawmakers. While efforts from both sides have been directed towards reforming labor and immigration problems on the island, future actions "will be jeopardized as certain groups and individuals continue to insult and belittle the successful changes we have done to date," he said.

With cash in hand PSS debates on CIP priorities

The Board of Education will face the tough decision on whether to build two new high schools or stick to the original plan of constructing one high school and a junior high school on Saipan. After the $15.8 million bond of the Public School System was officially secured, present proposals are presenting valid issues and concerns surrounding the priority construction projects on Saipan. A proposal is seeking to convert Marinas High School into a junior high and for PSS to build two new high schools on Saipan.

May 31, 2000

CPA seals power pact with US Navy

With the anticipated arrival of more United States Navy vessels into the Northern Marianas for relaxation and recreational activities, a technical agreement has been sealed with the Commonwealth Ports Authority for the installation of a major source of power at the Saipan International Harbor. Seaport Manager Tony Cabrera disclosed the agreement, which was recently reached between CPA and the U.S. Navy, paved the road for the installation of two high voltage transformers at the dock site for use by naval vessels. The original master plan for the Saipan International Harbor excludes the placement of major power sources for vessels docked at the facility, Mr. Cabrera said.

Bill regulating telecoms sparks debate in House

The proposed regulatory body for the local telecommunications industry met strong opposition yesterday from some members of the House of Representatives who said that such policy would lead to more restrictions and thus hinder its growth in the Northern Marianas. Rep. David M. Apatang, who leads the opposition, warned that enacting House Bill 12-6 or the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act will mean that the islands is "moving backwards" amid the dynamic growth of the industry worldwide. He said that although he does not object to the creation of a local commission that will oversee the sector, it should not impose additional rules and regulations that will be too restrictive for their business operations.

May 31, 2001

House wants answer to Kagman school's woes

Legislators yesterday vowed to take legal strides to compel authorities behind the construction of Kagman Elementary School to explain the mess that has plagued the $6-million facility since day one. Members of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication said they will not hesitate to recommend that a subpoena be issued to reluctant authorities or agencies. They cited the need to clarify pending matters that may be compromising the health and safety of Kagman elementary students. The call was initiated yesterday by Rep. Dino Jones after Department of Public Works Secretary Juan Cepeda failed to attend the committee meeting purposely set to discuss Kagman Elementary School's construction woes.

Construction firm seeks to collect debt from PSS

A Saipan-based construction firm is pressuring the Public School System to pay up what the latter allegedly owes the company based on four project contracts that the parties had entered into. Pacific Saipan Technical Contractors Inc., the plaintiff, filed through its counsel Joseph A. Arriola a civil suit against the autonomous agency alleging that the defendant failed to satisfy payments for construction work the plaintiff claims it has delivered. The plaintiff was hired by PSS to administer construction services at different public schools on Saipan. PSS legal counsel Tim Connor yesterday said PSTC failed to do the job based on the contract.

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~~Reg. $4.99~~ $3.99

Vega Shrimp $5.59

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Butane Gas $3.75 /PACK $22.99 /CASE

Bacon $3.29 /PKG

Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.19 /PKG

Hot Smoked Sausage 2.5lbs $6.99 /PACK

Spam (All Flavors) $2.39

Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.99

Black Label $1.79

Turkey Tail NO LIMIT $19.99 /CASE

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Rice Stick 16 oz. ~~Reg. $1.99~~/each 2 for $2.99

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WF Cherry/ Blueberry Pie Filling 21oz. $3.99 EACH

Libby's Pumpkin Pie Mix 30oz. $4.29

WF Extra Virgin Olive Oil 17oz. $6.99

Crisco Pure Vegetable Oil 1 Gal $10.99

Colgate Regular 150ml 2 for $3.99

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Obama and Romney on foreign policy

Choosing a worthy president and commander in chief is not a casual task for voters.

Those laboring to compare and contrast President Obama and Mitt Romney on war and foreign policy have a vexing assignment.

Obama's record invites approval and stirs frustration at the same time. He is working to leave Afghanistan, but not fast enough. He recently won support from NATO on a 2014 departure date to follow handing over security responsibilities to Afghan forces in 2013.

To its credit, the Obama White House has broadened foreign-policy discussions to be more inclusive, and to recognize the United States is long past unilaterally controlling any debate.

During the Arab Spring and the Libyan uprising, Obama rallied support, but the U.S. did not lead the charge. Coordination and resources, but not an arrogant assault. Iraq lessons learned.

Romney gropes for something to say on foreign policy, which explains why he alternately appears to endorse Obama's moves and timetables in Afghanistan, except when he does not.

Wholly out of his element, Romney surrounded himself with many of the same neoconservative advisers who launched the U.S. into two wars.

That point was reinforced not by left-wing critics in the Democratic Party, but by former Republican Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was exasperated by the right-wing credentials of Romney's foreign-policy and national-security teams.

Powell was annoyed by Romney's chatty denunciation of Russia as the No. 1 geopolitical foe of the United States. He was particularly frustrated that Romney did not seem to put any thought into the claim, which was disputed by the former general and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Obama settled an elemental grudge with the unrelenting pursuit of Osama bin Laden. The decision to dispatch teams of special forces to Pakistan was disparaged by Romney as a no-brainer any president, even Jimmy Carter would have made.

Frustrations with Obama are about pace, not global engagement or thoughtfulness. Romney, in the absence of original ideas or suffering bad advice, chooses to pick and poke. His jabs at China betray a naive world view.

The challenger does not so much offer critiques as pick nits, and then change his script.

A basic 2012 election issue with foreign-policy consequences is also deeply rooted in domestic politics: shrinking the size, role, expense and international presence of the U.S. military.

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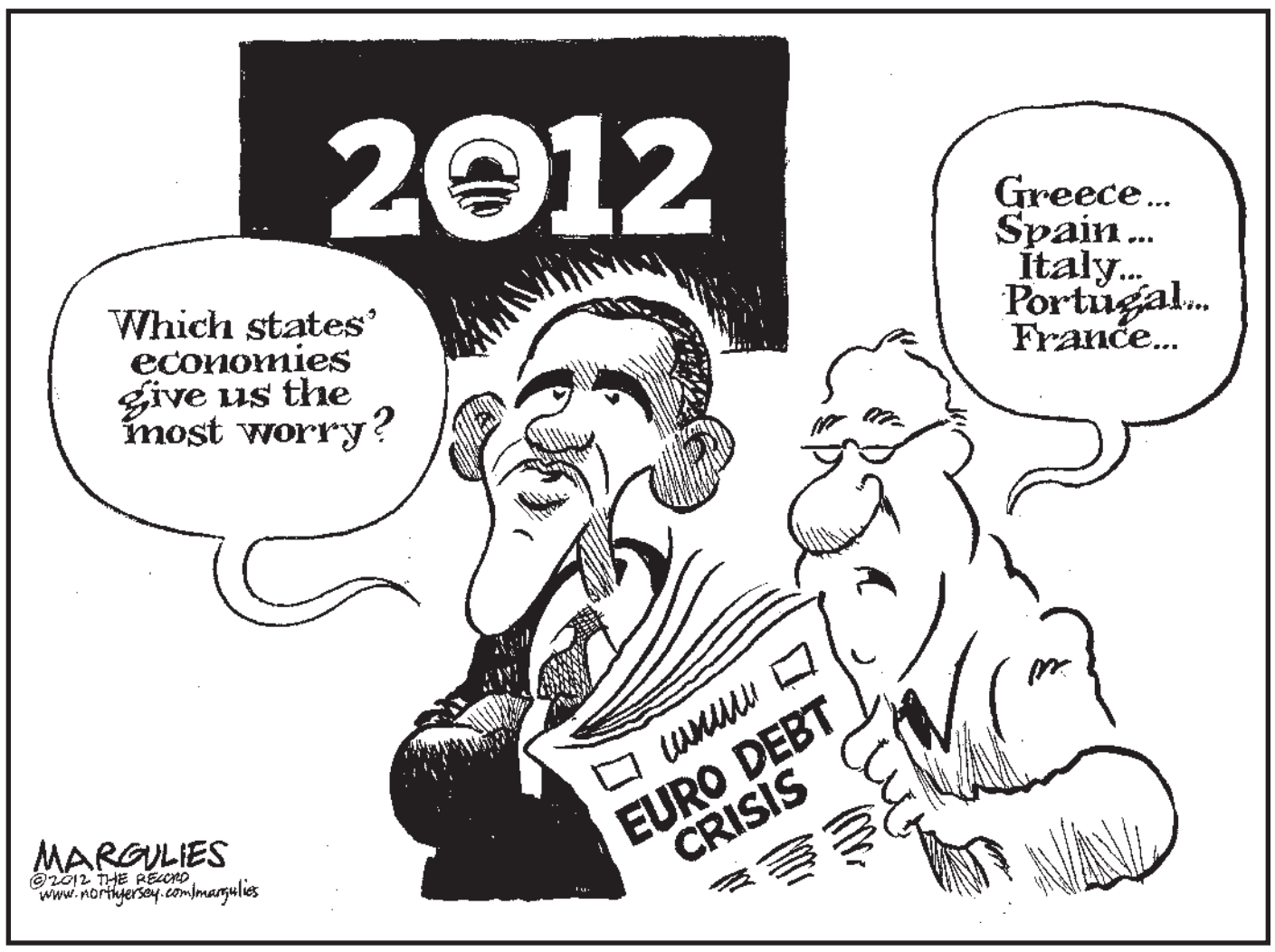


Defeating jihad

By DILIP HIRO
Los Angeles Times

Dilip Hiro's latest book is Apocalyptic Realm: Jihadists in South Asia. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

If the 11-year war against jihadist terrorism is to succeed, then its leaders must change their approach. So far, the United States and its NATO allies have approached jihadist violence in Afghanistan and Pakistan as a single problem, to be met with a single strategy.

But success will require a more nuanced parsing of who is conducting jihad and why, because the jihadists are not a homogenous group.

An Arabic word, "jihad" has a broad range of meaning. It can refer to an individual Muslim's internal struggle to adhere more faithfully to the teachings of Islam or, at the other extreme, to a holy war waged against external forces threatening Islam.

In modern times, jihad has most often meant using violence against the regimes of Muslim leaders considered un-Islamic; and it has been waged with the goal of establishing a state administered according to sharia law. The jihadist agenda until quite recently was usually local.

This changed after the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan in 1979. Pakistani-based leaders of an anti-Soviet jihad in Afghanistan invited militant Muslims from around the world to join their campaign. At that point, with support from the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, jihadism went global.

The success of jihadists in forcing the Soviets to leave Afghanistan in 1989 led to the formation of al-Qaida, which under the leadership of Osama bin Laden aimed to provide a global anchor to local jihads. During his 5-year-long refuge in Afghanistan, bin Laden befriended Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, which led to Omar's adopting global jihad as his movement's ideological anchor. This lasted until Sept. 11, 2001.

Omar's support for al-Qaida, and his harboring of bin Laden, resulted in the overthrow of the Taliban by the U.S. and its allies. Given all this, it would be hard to eliminate moderated Afghan jihadism that has merged with an ineradicable nationalism. Means must therefore be found to contain it.

That is why any resolution to the Afghan war must involve engagement with the Taliban and an attempt to draw them into a power-sharing deal in post-2014 Afghanistan. President Obama's recent signing of the U.S.-Afghan strategic partnership with the Karzai government should give the two presidents greater confidence in negotiations with the Taliban if and when these are resumed.

The challenge that the West faces in Pakistan requires a different approach. In Pakistan, al-Qaida's leaders and their allies have established themselves in the semiautonomous tribal belt along the Afghan border, and they remain committed to pursuing global jihadism. Respect for Pakistan's sovereignty means that NATO troops do not have the same freedom to curb militant jihadism in its tribal belt that they have in Afghanistan.

Among other things, the fugitive al-Qaida leaders in Pakistan inspired the rise of the Pakistani Taliban, which has targeted the state's security and intelligence agencies. Curbing these jihadists remains, exclusively, the task of the Pakistani government, whose troops are being trained in counterinsurgency tactics by American and British special forces. The Pakistani Taliban are at one end of the jihadist spectrum, with the legal Islamist parties participating in electoral politics at the other.

In Pakistan, the roots of today's jihadism—militant and moderate, global and more locally focused—date to the rule of military dictator Gen. Zia ul-Haq from 1977 to 1988. A die-hard Islamist, he set out to Islamize Pakistani state and society. He made sure that school and university textbooks did not contravene Islamic precepts, and he introduced severe sharia punishments for such acts as drinking alcohol, stealing and adultery. This process was accompanied by relentless Islamic propaganda through local mosques and the state-owned broadcast media.

The generation of students who graduated under Zia's Islamized educational order is now ensconced in the middle and top levels of the security and intelligence services as well as in the civil service and judiciary.

Politically, in urban areas, Islamist groups have wide support among the lower, middle and working classes, who are apt to take to the streets on any issue related to Islam. Little wonder that whenever there is conflict between street power and electoral authority, the former trumps the latter.

On the other hand, militant jihadists have made a grave mistake in their strategy. They have targeted not only non-Muslims and the symbols of Western thought in Pakistan but also the country's Shiite Muslims and Sufi followers of mystical Islam.

Though Pakistani jihadism is more difficult to curb because of its dual nature, militant jihadists have blundered by opening several fronts simultaneously. Doing so has made them vulnerable, and their opponents should exploit that weakness. So far the government has shied away from confronting radical jihadists, in part because many officials feel that a frontal assault on them could be counterproductive but also because of the sympathy they enjoy among some military and intelligence officers.

Pakistan must end its equivocation and combine a forceful move against violent jihadists with a vigorous campaign of education, information and propaganda through state-run electronic media and through mosques run by moderate clerics.

Obama reneges on secrecy pledge

By GLENN GARVIN
THE MIAMI HERALD

There were no cameras around to record whether President Obama was winking when, on his first full day in office, he signed an executive order and two presidential memorandums declaring that "every agency and department should know that this administration stands on the side not of those who seek to withhold information, but those who seek to make it known."

But surely he must have been. No White House in my lifetime—not even that of the infamously secretive Richard Nixon—has been more of an attack dog when it comes to preserving governmental secrecy.

Nixon unsuccessfully tried to put Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers, in jail. But Obama's administration has filed criminal cases against at least six current or former government employees accused of leaking classified information to reporters.

Leaking classified information sounds serious, unless you know how promiscuously Obama's administration slaps the words "top secret" on stuff: for instance, the Justice Department memorandum offering the legal justification for the White House's decision to kill the American-born radical Muslim cleric Anwar al-Awlaki in his hiding place in Yemen.

We're not talking about a cable explaining how the government knew where Awlaki was hiding or who helped find him. This document is a collection of arguments about musty U.S. Supreme Court decisions involving Fourth and Fifth Amendment cases. The only thing that might be damaged by its release is the reputation of the lawyers who wrote it, and the White House they work for.

Protecting the reputation of government officials, in fact, seems to be an emerging theme of the Obama administration's policy on classified data. The government was shamelessly open about its motives when it refused to release a 31-year-old CIA history of the Bay of Pigs invasion, telling a federal judge that the document was "a polemic of recriminations against CIA officers who later criticized the operation."

The government couldn't argue that the history would reveal national security secrets, because it doesn't contain any. It's the final book in a five-volume study of the disastrous 1961 CIA-backed invasion of Cuba. The author, CIA historian Jack Pfeiffer, purposefully kept all classified information out of the last two volumes of the study so he could use them as the backbone of a general-audience history of the Bay of Pigs that he planned to write after his retirement.

The CIA, however, balked at his plan and battled him in court for years to keep the entire study secret. After Pfeiffer died of a stroke, the National Security Archive—a Washington-based research center—took up the legal fight. And, inch by inch, it has beaten the CIA back. The first four volumes of the history, including the three based on actual classified documents, have all been declassified.

But the CIA remains adamant about the fifth volume, and earlier this month got a federal judge to agree that it should remain secret rather than "risk public release of inaccurate historical information." (As opposed, I guess, to providing "inaccurate information"—that is, lies—about current policy, which American governments do on a regular basis without judicial interference.)

You might think that if the CIA is still fighting a scorched-earth battle to keep this study locked up three decades later, it must contain some truly lurid secrets, of murders or torture or ghastly secret weapons. You would almost certainly be wrong. Though the contents of the fifth volume remain secret, enough general information has emerged during all the legal infighting that we know the general outlines.

It's a bunch of intergovernmental backbiting between the Kennedy White House and the CIA over who, exactly, was most to blame for the Bay of Pigs. Was it John F. Kennedy and his braintrust, who kept chipping away at the level of U.S. support for the Cuban exiles who were to carry out the invasion? Or the CIA, for lousy execution of a plan that wasn't very good to begin with?

Peter Kornbluh, a senior analyst at the National Security Archive, thinks the CIA is too embarrassed to release the report because everybody will see what a petty little character assassin its author Pfeiffer was. I disagree. I think the CIA is embarrassed because the report will show that some of its top officials were smarmy careerists willing to turn on their own colleagues in order to kiss up to the Kennedy White House.

But it doesn't matter which of us is right: Either way, secrecy is being invoked not to protect U.S. national security but the reputations of the people charged with carrying it out. And that's not only wrong but absurd, 51 years after the Bay of Pigs when almost everybody who was involved is dead. Somebody needs to remind President Obama that he issued an executive order declaring that "no information shall remain classified indefinitely." And then Obama needs to remind the CIA.

Glenn Garvin is a columnist for the Miami Herald, *1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132. Readers may write to him via email at ggarvin@miamiherald.com.*

Mom and Dad's electronic tether to campus

By ANNE MICHAUD
NEWSDAY

As college students return home this month for the summer break, their parents might not notice much of a difference. In a sense, for many of them, their kids never really left.

That's because some parents and college students keep in touch several times a day through cellphones, email, Skype and other technological marvels. A horrified English literature professor writes about this constant communication in a recent issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, in "Don't Pick Up: Why kids need to separate from their parents."

"One student—a delightful young woman whom I know to be smart and levelheaded—confesses that she talks to her mother on the cellphone at least five, maybe six, even seven times a day," writes Terry Castle, who teaches at Stanford University. The student says she calls her mom whenever she gets out of class to tell her about the professors, the exam—whatever's going on at the moment.

"I'm stunned; I'm aghast," Castle writes. When she was an undergraduate, from 1971 to 1975, "all we wanted to do was get away from our parents! We only had one telephone in our whole dorm—in the hallway—for 50 people! If your parents called, you'd yell, 'Tell them I'm not here!'"

Castle never says whether her current students are different from those she taught in the past—more docile, perhaps? More obedient? But she does say that the willingness to defy or just disappoint one's parents is essential to emotional and intellectual freedom. Is the Class of 2012 at risk of remaining in mental chains?

The online responses to her essay are fascinating. One says that with parents paying as much as $55,000 a year for college, you bet they are going to check in. Another says this is probably a problem only at elite universities—the implication being that you needed to be a helicopter parent in the first place to get your kid into a top school. Another says parents are anxious because of the recession and feel they need to try extra hard to help kids find their place in the world.

Melissa Bares, who just finished her junior year at Stony Brook University, says she has friends with too-concerned parents who she describes as "babied." "They can't even make their own schedule without checking with their parents first," she says in an email.

Bares, a psychology major, speaks with her parents about school a couple of times a week—which seems normal to me. Both Bares and James Kim, another Class of 2013 student at SBU, defend parental involvement—but not over-involvement.

"If a parent nags, it brings a lot of pressure," says Kim, a double major in chemistry and Asian-American Studies. He calls home about once a week. "If it's the right amount of nagging, you see students excel more."

He mentions a friend—a slacker—who could use a lot more parental oversight.

Jenny A. Hwang, who heads up mental health services at SBU, says parental involvement is crucial and can protect against alcohol and drug abuse, as well as depression and even suicide. But technology has made it so easy for parents to reach out that one of her roles is to counsel moms and dads about a healthy amount of communication.

"Parents can remain available and help students problem-solve," Hwang says, "without responding to that pull that's always there to make it all better."

Castle, the English professor, cites fictional orphans—Dorothy Gale, Harry Potter, Frodo Baggins—who are heroes of their own stories, to argue that psychological distance from parents is essential for kids to grow up.

That may be true, but distance, like many things, is better in moderation.

Anne Michaud is interactive editor for Newsday *Opinion and a member of the* Newsday *editorial board. Her email address is anne.michaud@newsday.com.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's solve our debt by joining a bigger debt!

The U.S. government is over $13 *trillion* in debt. That's *trillion*, with a capital T! They are in the same situation we are in! They will soon be forced to face the same financial decisions we face today. Instead of becoming part of the bigger problem by squandering millions of CNMI dollars in a Social Security buy in, let's show the world what the CNMI is really made of and make the cuts in government necessary to honor the law that has told all the retirees they will get what they have earned.

It is childish and irresponsible to not address our government's *spending problem* (not a revenue problem) by generalizing and simply cutting everyone. The person who has worked for the CNMI government for only a few years does *not* have the vested interest of the retiree who followed the rules for 20 years or more! The law allows for reductions in force and other means to trim government. The law does *not* allow the reduction or outright theft of retirement pensions!

I have already earned my Social Security pension by working in the U.S. before, during, and after college and will receive it when I turn 62. I am not alone in this in the CNMI. To buy into Social Security is simply stealing my CNMI retirement. Nobody buys something they already have! But in the bigger picture, it is *not* wise to buy into a bigger debt structure that will soon be facing cuts and reductions due to the same mismanagement we have experienced.

Let's show the world who we really are. Let's honor the retirement system we created by law. Let's make the cuts the law allows and show the U.S. how to do it right. They *are* watching because they are next! We might want to watch who among our politicians support this and act accordingly in November.

Michael Murphy
Kagman, Saipan

Paid Taiwan vacation

Can the people of the CNMI get an update on the trip that Paul Maglona and five other local political yahoos from Capital Hill made to Taiwan a few months back? Remember, that Rota Dude Paul M. split island and went for an all-expense-paid trip by the Taiwanese while the CHC mess was just starting and it blew up while they were getting fed Beijing duck. The people of the CNMI would like to know what is the result benefit of that trip to the people, how did that trip work toward improving our lives now, today. Rota dude, give us a report, and the follow up action on your vacation while Rome is burning at home.

Out of $102 million for 2013, take away 80 percent for payroll costs. That leaves only about $20 million for all other expenses on the island. And with 40 bills passed in government last year, and only one bill dealing with creating revenue for the island—which is a failure of leadership by you and your useless cronies—this is the reality of our islands.

Rota dude, you have no business taking off for all-expense-paid trips to Taiwan, a rather useless economic partner, and of no relevance to saving the CNMI's butt in the short term. You show poor time management, and lack of priorities, leaving island when CHC was in the first stages of a healthcare meltdown for the island people you serve. We're going to dog ya' for this Taiwan vacation report update, Rota dude. It ain't going away 'til you come clean and show us what you accomplished in Taiwan, and what the action plan is for the future. If you haven't got it, then you're totally screwing the CNMI.

Chris West
Los Angeles, Calif.

Clarification

The front-page report of the first landing at North Field since 1947 is in error. At least 10 years ago while visiting the bomb pits I drove onto one of the runways and a C-130 almost touched down on my car. It was landing to pick up the remaining personnel of a military exercise that had just finished. A very irate person in uniform threatened to lock me up when I suggested that he might want to tighten up access to an active runway. It was certainly memorable for me!

Jim Calderwood
Navy Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86 ° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

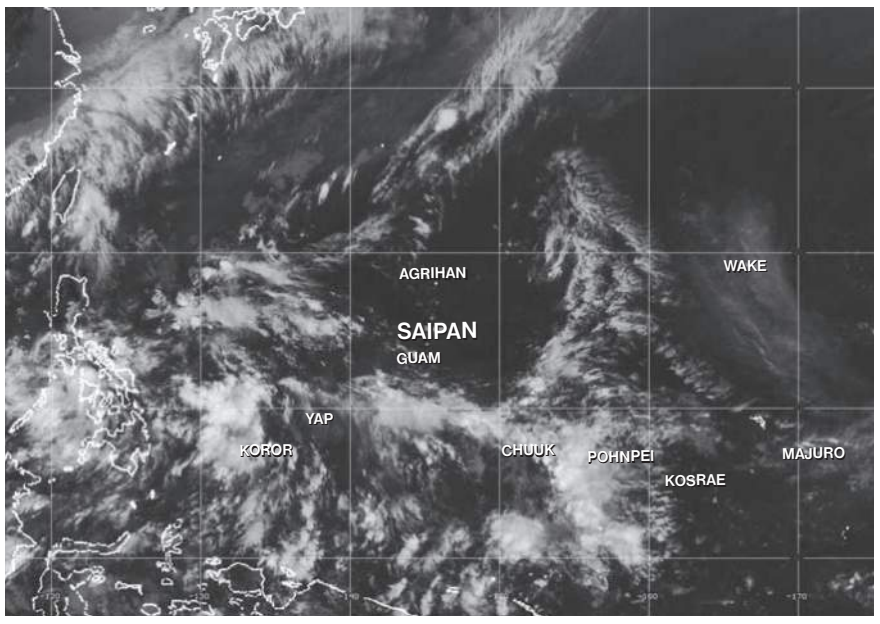
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲59	▼49
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼74
London	Showers	▲69	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲77	▼62
Paris	Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲73	▼62
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Salem	Showers	▲79	▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲81	▼59
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲74	▼64
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲80	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Monsoon trough extends southeastward from a circulation northwest of Koror near 13N126E to another circulation southwest of Chuuk near 2N143E and continues eastward to near Pohnpei at 7N158E. Scattered Showers and a few thunderstorms prevail south and west of Koror or south of 12N from 131E to 134E and south of 7N from 134E to 138E. Similar conditions are also found south of Guam between 12N and 7N from 142E to 146E and over and east of Chuuk or within 60 miles of a line from 2N160E to 3N156E to 7N155E to 9N150E. A surface trough extends northeastward from the circulation northwest of Koror to near 24N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms lie in the area bounded by 12N130E to 16N142E to 13N130E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
5:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:22 PM	1:39 AM
Friday	3:22 PM	2:26 AM
Saturday	4:24 PM	3:16 AM
Sunday	5:29 PM	4:11 AM
Monday	6:35 PM	5:10 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				**SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)**			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5	UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Guam, NMI soldiers return from 3-week annual training

Some 600 men and women of the Guam Army National Guard are returning home after three weeks of combat training in California.

The soldiers, from the 1-294th Infantry Regiment and its attached supporting element, F Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, started flying in on Sunday, on both commercial and military transport aircraft. More soldiers returned over the last couple of days and the rest are expected to arrive today.

The 1-294th Infantry is composed of soldiers from Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Sixteen soldiers from the CNMI participated in the annual training.

The soldiers spent three weeks at Camp Roberts, Calif., to perform their annual training. The training focused on individual and squad level training for soldiers assigned to the battalion, as it prepares for its pending deployment to Afghanistan early next year, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to LTC Michael Tougher, battalion commander.

"Training highlights included an emphasis in rifle marksmanship and crew served weapons training," Tougher said. "Our units also used the opportunity to qualify vehicle crews on mounted gunnery tasks which directly support our anticipated mission."

The base is typically used by Army National Guard and Army Reserve units for their collective training. The Maneuver Training Center Camp Roberts covers a 42,361-acre site that is considered the largest training area under the control of the California Army National Guard. It can support the training requirements of light and heavy maneuver (mounted and dismounted) training, live-fire ranges from small arms to crew serve weapons, aerial gunnery, drop zones, and limited airfield needs on two airfields.

Soldiers from the battalion said that Camp Roberts was an environment that offered them much learning opportunities to prepare for deployment.

SPC Jesse J. Camacho, from A Company, said he expected the battalion to hit the ground running when they got there, and they did. "Everything was to the T… The ranges there were top of the line."

Camacho, who deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with A Company in 2008, noted that Camp Roberts' training environment gave soldiers a good glimpse of where they will be deployed.

"How that place was is exactly how Afghanistan was. Everything was realistic, so it gave us lower echelon a greater picture of what we will be seeing downrange," Camacho said.

SSG Gene Guzman Jr., squad leader for B Company, 1st Plt, 3rd Sqd, said the variety of training helped his soldiers in their combat skills.

"The training that we did out there, from weapons, to handgrenades, to movements, the virtual trainer, was really good. A lot of the lower enlisted learned from it," Guzman said.

Most of the soldiers in his squad are seasoned soldiers, he said, but, "for the guys that are brand new to the squad, they learned a lot. They actually want to learn more."

The air movement to and from Camp Roberts was possibly the largest for Guard soldiers on annual training, according to unit leaders, where more than 600 soldiers were transported to a training site about 8,000 miles away.

Several states with Air National Guard assets supported the air movement to California, according to LTC George Charfauros, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. These states included Alaska, Arizona, California, Georgia, Iowa, Maine Mississippi, New Hampshire, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

For the return of the soldiers, the units that supported the air movement included the 164th Airlift Wing (TNANG), 122st Air Refueling Wing (OHANG), 161ARW (AZANG), 101st ARW (MEANG), 172nd AW (MSANG), and 146th AW (CAANG).

The Guam Army National Guard received the alert order for its 1-294th Infantry and F Company, 29th BSB for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom late last year.

The alert order is a step in the process leading to mobilization. It also gives the Guam Army National Guard and the 1-294th Infantry command the time and resources it needs to meet the training and validation requirements before the unit reports to its mobilization station, and complete training before deploying into their area of operations.

The anticipated activation of the 1-294th Infantry Regiment may also be considered as the largest group of reserve component troops to be mobilized and deployed from Guam. ***(PR)***

GUNG/CPT KEN OLA

SPC Philip Escribano, right, and SPC Gorbachev Mendiola greet family members, while SPC Kerman Melios looks for his family. Over 600 soldiers are returning to Guam after combat training at Camp Roberts, Calif.

GUNG/CPT KEN OLA

SPC Richard Quiambao greets a family member after he arrived at the Guam International Airport yesterday. Over 600 soldiers are returning to Guam after combat training at Camp Roberts, CA.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ADDENDUM NO. 1
05/30/2012
RFP12-GOV-077
HealthCare System Analysis

The previously advertised notice, Request for Proposal for the **"HealthCare System Analysis"** has been amended. The specific amendment is to change the submission due date from June 01, 2012 to June 04, 2012. The following amendment is as follows:

All proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP12-GOV-077** Healthcare System Analysis and include an original and four copies and must be submitted no later than 4:30 pm, Monday, June 4, 2012 (ChST).

All other elements of the RFP remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Thursday, except holidays) at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408.

Business

Battered BlackBerry maker weighs options

TORONTO (AP)—BlackBerry-maker Research in Motion has hired a team of bankers to help it weigh its options as its business erodes in the face of an exodus to the iPhone and Android smartphones.

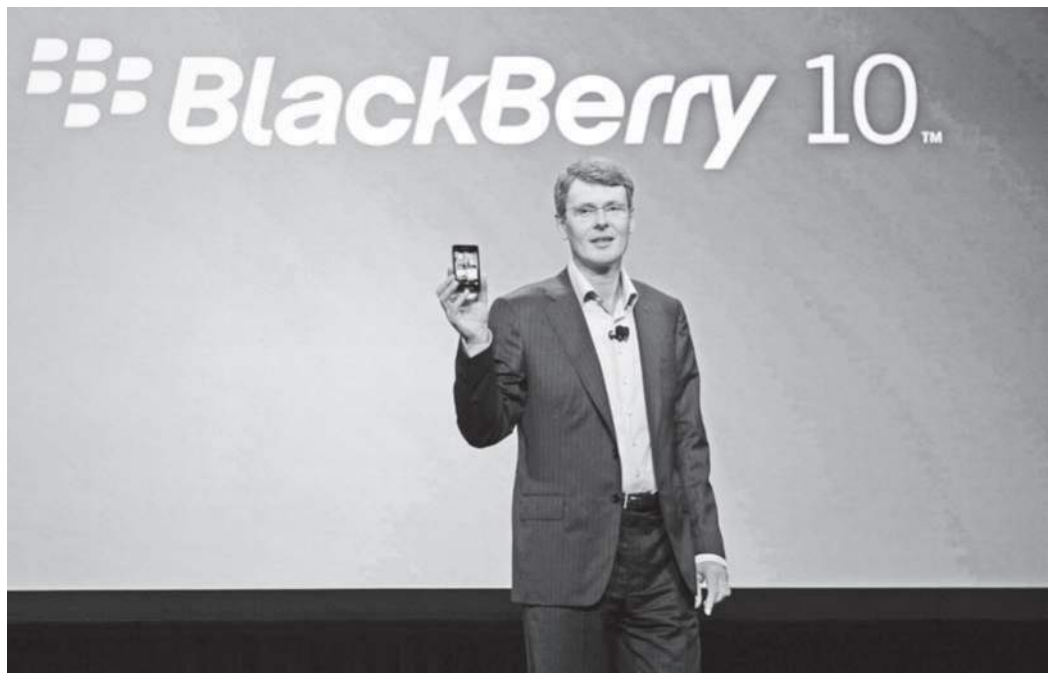
RIM issued a dire warning about its business Tuesday, saying it is losing money for the second-consecutive quarter and will lay off a "significant" number of employees.

The company based in Waterloo, Ontario said it has hired J.P. Morgan and RBC Capital Markets to help it evaluate its options. Those including partnering with other companies, licensing software and overhauling its business, it said.

RIM made no mention of selling of the company. But new Chief Executive Thorsten Heins did not rule that out after RIM's last earnings report in late March.

Colin Gillis, an analyst with BGC Financial, said the company is in a downward slide that's not slowing. He said he doesn't see any buyers for RIM coming forward soon.

"Unfortunately, it falls into the too little, too late category," Gillis said. "It doesn't mean somebody won't try it. It doesn't mean it's going to be a savior for the company either."



AP

In this May 1, 2012 file photo, Thorsten Heins, president and CEO of Research In Motion, delivers the keynote speech during the BlackBerry World conference in Orlando Fla.

The statement from RIM did not detail the coming layoffs, other than to say the company expects "significant spending reductions and headcount reductions in some areas throughout the remainder of the year."

Jefferies analyst Peter Misek said he expects RIM to announce as many as 5,000 layoffs soon. The company has about 16,500 employees now after cutting 2,000 jobs in July.

RIM said the company looks to save $1 billion—even as it transitions to its much-delayed "BlackBerry 10" software platform expected out later this year.

RIM's stock fell 7 percent, or 80 cents, to $10.43 in extended trading following the release of the company's statement. Before Tuesday's announcement, the stock had lost almost 75 percent in the last year.

The company that pioneered the smartphone market with its BlackBerry phones is facing the most difficult period in its history. RIM's U.S. share of smartphones dropped from 44 percent in 2009 to 10 percent in 2011, according to market researcher NPD Group.

It still has 78 million active subscribers across the globe, but Apple Inc.'s iPhone and smartphones from companies including Samsung and HTC that use Google Inc.'s Android software are gobbling up market share.

"The on-going competitive environment is impacting our business in the form of lower volumes and highly competitive pricing dynamics in the marketplace," Heins said in Tuesday's statement. He said the company will likely post an operating loss when it reports its fiscal first quarter results on June 28.

Heins, formerly a little known chief operating officer at RIM, took over in January after RIM founder Mike Lazaridis and longtime executive Jim Balsillie stepped down as co-CEOs after the company lost tens of billions in market value.

RIM has tried to make phones with touchscreens that resemble the iPhone, but those offerings have largely flopped. And so has RIM's tablet, the PlayBook, which uses the very software that will be in the new BlackBerry 10 smartphones.

The company is following the same trajectory as struggling Finnish handset maker Nokia and California-based Palm, both of which attracted consumers with trend-setting phones and technologies in their heyday, only to be outmaneuvered by competitors. In Canada, there is fear that the nation's biggest technology company could go the way of former Canadian tech giant Nortel, which declared bankruptcy in 2009 and was picked over for its patents.

RIM was "the leader and this is what happens in the technology cycle of creation and destruction," Gillis said. "They rode the first wave of the smartphone revolution and Apple is riding the next one."

Europeans ambivalent to the euro, survey finds

LONDON (AP)—The debt crisis that has ravaged Europe for the best part of three years has exposed a dislike of the single currency but little desire to abandon it, a wide-ranging survey of public opinion found Tuesday.

Pew Research Center's survey across eight European Union countries, including five members of the 17-country eurozone, indicated that the region's financial problems have triggered full-blown fears about the future of Europe as a political project.

"This crisis of confidence is evident in the economy, in the future, in the benefits of European economic integration, in EU membership, in the euro and in the free market system," Pew said in a statement accompanying its survey.

Despite those concerns, Pew found there was no desire for those countries that use the euro to return to their former currencies, such as the French franc or the Spanish peseta. The euro launched in 1999 and is now used by 17 countries.

In Greece, the epicenter of the debt crisis, 71 percent of those polled want to keep the euro, as against to 23 percent that want to return to the drachma. More people in Greece, which is now in its fifth year of a savage recession, think the euro has been good for them than bad—46 percent of those surveyed compared to 26 percent who thought it was a bad thing.

These findings may be crucial as Greece heads to the polls on June 17 in a general election many see as a referendum on the country's euro membership.

Varvara Konstantopoulou, a 65-year-old pensioner in Athens, summed up the dilemma that is at the heart of a country that is trapped between indefinite austerity and a catastrophic currency exit.

"I don't think the euro helped us. When we joined everything became more expensive," she said. "But we are trapped now. If we leave the euro, our money will not be worth anything. It's worse for people on a fixed income."

Her 45-year-old unemployed daughter, Alexia, agreed with her mother that Greece was not ready for the euro when it joined in 2001. However, she thinks the euro will survive but that in the future countries should get a grip on their public finances so there's no repeat of the current crisis.

"Otherwise they will end up like us," she said. "Every country should sort out its own problems, but they have to help us to keep things going smoothly (for the euro)."

China rolls out mini-stimulus to fight slump

BEIJING (AP)—China is rolling out a mini-stimulus to fight its economic slump but is moving cautiously after its massive response to the 2008 global crisis left a painful hangover of inflation and debt.

Beijing has yet to announce a total price tag. But measures announced piecemeal in recent weeks include 66 billion yuan ($10 billion) to build affordable housing and 26.5 billion yuan to subsidize sales of energy-efficient appliances.

That limited size should make the effort more manageable than the 4 trillion yuan ($586 billion) avalanche of spending and bank loans in 2008. But its power to boost growth in a $2.5 trillion economy also will be smaller.

Still, analysts say the measures should be enough to drive a rebound and keep growth for the year at or slightly above 8 percent. "I do think it will make a big difference," said Nomura economist Zhiwei Zhang.

"Second-half GDP growth will be better than the first half, to a large extent driven by this support," Zhang said. "Without it, I think growth probably would trend down."

After spending two years enforcing lending and investment curbs to cool inflation and an overheated economy, communist leaders began gradually reversing course in December following a plunge in demand for China's exports.

Their efforts took on more urgency after economic growth plunged to a nearly three-year low of 8.1 percent in the first quarter and factory output in April grew at its lowest rate since the 2008 crisis. Analysts say growth should slow further in the current quarter.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls to near $90 as Europe's economy falters

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near $90 a barrel Wednesday in Asia amid expectations Europe's sputtering economy will drag on global crude demand. Benchmark oil for July delivery was down 38 cents to $90.38 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 10 cents to settle at $90.76 in New York on Tuesday. Brent crude for July delivery was down 31 cents at $106.37 per barrel in London.

Sprint to shut Nextel as early as June 2013

NEW YORK (AP)—Sprint Nextel Corp. on Tuesday said it will shut down the Nextel network as early as June 30 next year, cutting off service for its characteristic walkie-talkie-like Nextel phones. Sprint had already said the shutdown would commence sometime next year, but had not set a date. The Overland Park, Kan., phone company bought the Nextel network in 2005, and has lost money every quarter for the last four years as it's struggled with the cost of running two incompatible wireless networks. There were 5.4 million phones active on the Nextel network at the end of March.

Facebook's stock falls below $30 for first time

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook's stock has fallen below $30 for the first time since its much-awaited public debut this month. The stock fell $3.07, or 9.6 percent, to close at $28.84 on Tuesday. That's down 24 percent since its public stock debut. It went as low as $28.65 earlier in the day. Facebook Inc. began trading publicly on May 18 following one of the most anticipated stock offerings in history. The site, which was born in a Harvard dorm room eight years ago and has grown into a worldwide network of almost a billion people, was supposed to offer proof that social media is a viable business and more than a passing fad.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,580.69	1,332.42	2,870.99
+125.86	+14.60	+33.46
+1.01%	+1.11%	+1.18%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0158	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7634	Philippine Peso	43.5920
British Pound	0.6383	Indian Rupee	55.7414	Singapore Dollar	1.2777
Canadian Dollar	1.0240	Indonesian Rupiah	9,514.7	South Korean Won	1,180.6
Chinese Yuan	6.3391	Japanese Yen	79.4913	Swiss Franc	0.9594
Euro	0.7984	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1549	Taiwan Dollar	29.6560
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3140	Thailand Baht	31.7058

Nation

Romney clinches GOP nomination with Texas win

WASHINGTON (AP—Mitt Romney clinched the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday with a win in the Texas primary, a triumph of endurance for a candidate who came up short four years ago and had to fight hard this year as voters flirted with a carousel of GOP rivals.

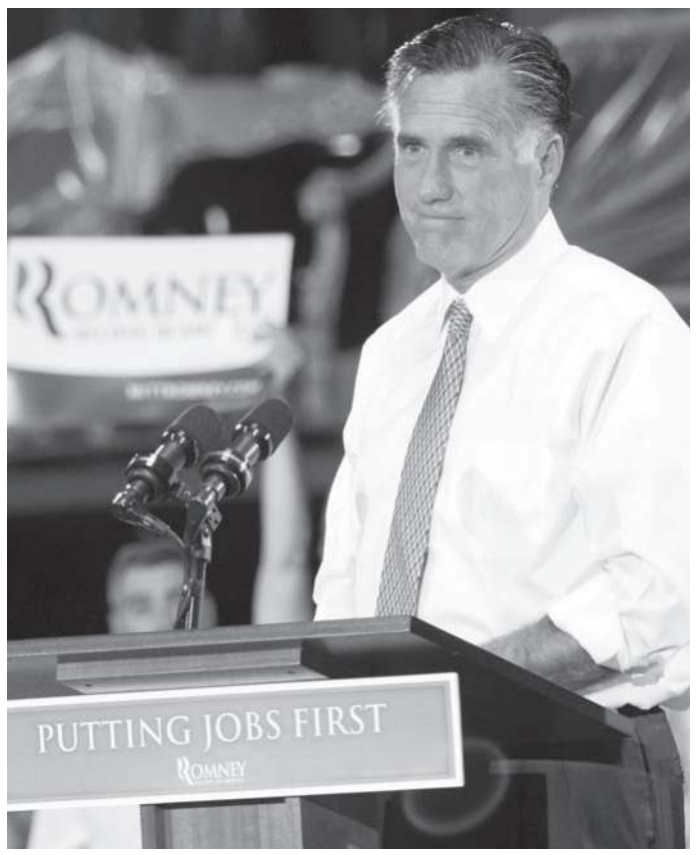
According to The Associated Press count, Romney surpassed the 1,144 delegates needed to win the nomination by winning at least 97 delegates in the Texas primary.

The former Massachusetts governor has reached the nomination milestone with a steady message of concern about the U.S. economy, a campaign organization that dwarfed those of his GOP foes and a fundraising operation second only to that of his Democratic opponent in the general election, President Barack Obama.

Romney would be the first Mormon nominated by a major party. His religion has been less of an issue than it was during his failed bid four years ago.

"We did it!" Romney proclaimed in a message to supporters, noting that "it's only the beginning."

"An honor and a privilege and a great responsibility," Romney told supporters at a fundraiser in Las Vegas. "And I know the road to 1,144 was long and hard, but I also know that the road to 11-06—Nov. 6th—is also going to be long and it's going to be hard and it's going to be worth it because we're going to take back the White House and get America right again."



AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney pauses during a campaign event at the Somers Furniture warehouse in Las Vegas, Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

Romney must now fire up conservatives who still doubt him while persuading swing voters that he can do a better job fixing the nation's struggling economy than Obama. In Obama, he faces a well-funded candidate with a proven campaign team in an election that will be heavily influenced by the economy.

Romney's campaign went on the attack Tuesday, releasing a Web video citing the Obama administration's loan-guarantee investments in four renewable-energy firms that lost money and laid off workers.

The message—"President Obama is fundamentally hostile to job creators"—has been a theme of the Romney campaign since he launched his presidential bid. But sensing an opportunity to reach a new audience, the campaign planned to highlight Obama's support for the failed renewable energy company Solyndra, among other private ventures the Obama administration helped support.

"We need to have presidents who understand how this economy works," Romney told reporters Tuesday. "Sometimes I just don't think he understands what it takes to help people. I know he wants to help, but he doesn't know what he's got to do."

Romney's message and his big day, however, were somewhat overshadowed by real estate mogul Donald Trump and his discredited suggestions that Obama wasn't born in the United States.

Romney spent Tuesday evening at a Las Vegas fundraiser with Trump, who had toyed with the idea of running for president. Romney says he believes Obama was born in America but has yet to condemn Trump's repeated insinuations to the contrary.

"If Mitt Romney lacks the backbone to stand up to a charlatan like Donald Trump because he's so concerned about lining his campaign's pockets, what does that say about the kind of president he would be?" Obama's deputy campaign manager, Stephanie Cutter, said in a statement.

Both Trump and Romney steered clear of the issue at Tuesday's fundraiser. Asked Monday about Trump's contentions, Romney said: "I don't agree with all the people who support me. And my guess is they don't all agree with everything I believe in." He added: "But I need to get 50.1 percent or more. And I'm appreciative to have the help of a lot of good people."

Trump overshadows Romney with 'birther' talk

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Mitt Romney's presidential campaign collided with Donald Trump's "birther" rhetoric on Tuesday as the reality television star hosted a fundraiser for the Republican while claiming again that President Barack Obama is foreign-born.

The debunked conspiracy theory among conservative activists dubbed "birthers" charges that Obama is not constitutionally qualified to serve in the White House. Romney has said he believes Obama was born in America, but he has not condemned Trump's comments.

Democrats contend it's the latest example of Romney's reluctance to confront the more extreme elements in his party.

"A lot of people do not think it was an authentic certificate," Trump told CNN of Obama's birth certificate, just hours before he was set to host Romney's finance event at the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas.

Such allegations have been repeatedly proven false. The state of Hawaii recently re-affirmed that Obama was born there.

Trump's comments, repeated in several media interviews Tuesday, overshadowed Romney's visit to Nevada, one of a handful of swing states expected to decide the presidential contest in November. Trump also upstaged news from Texas that Romney had collected enough delegates to clinch the Republican presidential nomination.

Romney did not address the issue directly at separate events in Colorado and Nevada, but on Monday night he told reporters aboard his campaign plane that Trump is entitled to his opinion. Even as Trump-related criticism from Democrats and Republicans intensified in recent days, Romney showed no sign of distancing himself from the polarizing figure.

"I don't agree with all the people who support me. And my guess is they don't all agree with everything I believe in," Romney said. "But I need to get 50.1 percent or more. And I'm appreciative to have the help of a lot of good people."

Trump remains popular among the conservative base and boasts ties to deep-pocketed donors. The Las Vegas event was expected to raise $2 million, but Romney's ties to Trump extend beyond that single fundraiser. He has recorded automated phone calls for Romney, hosted a fundraiser for his wife, Ann, in New York, and pressed the candidate's case as a television surrogate.

When Romney's campaign plan arrived at the Las Vegas airport Tuesday, it parked within sight of Trump's plane—the businessman's name emblazoned on the side in large gold letters.

Etan Patz suspect's mental illness history could be key

NEW YORK (AP)—Pedro Hernandez has confessed to killing the 6-year-old boy at the heart of one of the nation's most prominent missing-child cases, police say. And he has schizophrenia and a history of hallucinations, his lawyer says.

Court-appointed doctors are still assessing Hernandez's mental state, and it's unclear how much it will factor in the case charging him with the 1979 murder of young Etan Patz.

But if his psychiatric record becomes an issue, he'll encounter a justice system that seeks to strike a balance between recognizing mental illness and holding people responsible for their actions—a balance that has shifted back and forth over more than a century and a half.

Hernandez, 51, remained in a psychiatric hospital Tuesday as authorities continued trying to flesh out his startling admission in a case that galvanized the movement to publicize the problem of missing children. Meanwhile, Etan's father made clear that the attention to the case since Hernandez's arrest last week had taken a toll, telling reporters they had "managed to make a difficult situation even worse."

"It is past time for you to leave me, my family and my neighbors alone," Stan Patz said in a note posted on his apartment building's door.

Police encountered Hernandez, who worked in a nearby convenience store, shortly after Etan vanished on his way to school on May 25, 1979. But investigators never considered Hernandez a suspect until a tipster pointed them his way this month, saying he had made incriminating statements. He responded with an emotional and gruesome confession: He said he strangled the boy, hid his body in a bag and a box and dumped it near some trash, police said.

Even police shocked by gore in face-mauling attack

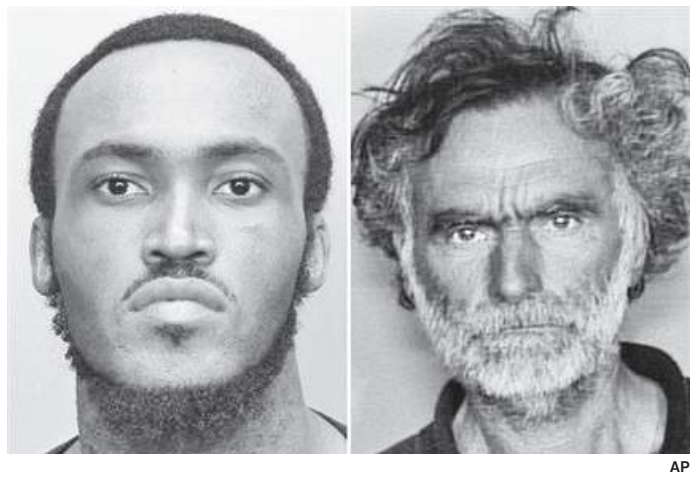
MIAMI (AP)—It is being called one of this city's goriest crimes: A naked man was on top of another nude man along a busy highway, biting into the man's face, tearing it to pieces. A police officer arrived to help, but the mauler growled at him and continued to chew away, stopping only when he was shot to death.

Miami police said little Tuesday about the attack, which took place Saturday afternoon in the shadow of The Miami Herald headquarters. Surveillance video from the newspaper's security camera showed cars, motorcycles, pedestrians and bicyclists passing by.

The victim, identified as 65-year-old Ronald Poppo, a homeless man who lived under the causeway, was in critical condition.

"He had his face eaten down to his goatee. The forehead was just bone. No nose, no mouth," said Sgt. Armando Aguilar, president of the Miami Fraternal Order of Police. "In my opinion, he just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Sgt. Javier Ortiz, vice president of the Miami Fraternal Order of Police, said it was one of the bloodiest "and goriest scenes I've ever been to."



AP

This combo made with undated photos made available by the Miami-Dade Police Dept. shows Rudy Eugene, 31, left, who police shot and killed as he ate the face of Ronald Poppo, 65, right, during a horrific attack in the shadow of the Miami Herald's headquarters on Saturday, May 26, 2012.

"It was not only grotesque, it was just very sad, the amount of blood. It was very sad to see what happened to this gentleman that had his face eaten," Ortiz said.

It's not clear what led Rudy Eugene, 31, to attack Poppo. Eugene's ex-wife, Jenny Ductant, told WPLG-TV, said he was somewhat paranoid.

"I wouldn't say he had mental problem but he always felt like people was against him ... No one was for him, everyone was against him," she told the station. She and Eugene's mother declined comment when reached by The Associated Press.

Larry Vega was riding his bicycle off the causeway, which connects downtown Miami with Miami Beach, when he saw the attack.

"The guy was, like, tearing him to pieces with his mouth, so I told him, `Get off!'" Vega told Miami television station WSVN (http://bit.ly/L6kwWt). "The guy just kept eating the other guy away, like, ripping his skin."

Vega flagged down the Miami police officer, who can be seen exiting his car on the Herald video. Vega said the officer repeatedly ordered the attacker to get off. Eugene just picked his head up and growled at the officer before continuing to maul his victim, Vega said.

The officer shot Eugene, but he just kept chewing, Vega said. The officer fired again, killing Eugene.

Vega refused to comment when reached by The Associated Press, saying he wanted to put what he witnessed behind him.

Detective William Moreno would not release details about the shooting, citing the ongoing investigation.

Asia

Suu Kyi, in Myanmar since 1988, starts world tour

BANGKOK (AP)—For 24 years, Aung San Suu Kyi was either under house arrest or too fearful that if she left Myanmar, the government would never let her return.

Now, in a sign of how much life there has changed, the democracy activist and long-time political prisoner is resuming world travels, arriving Tuesday night in neighboring Thailand after an 85-minute flight from her homeland.

With the installation of an elected government last year, and her party's own entrance into parliament this year, she can claim at least partial success for her long fight and feel the freedom to explore the world.

Suu Kyi is to spend several days in Thailand, meeting with poor migrant workers and war refugees from her homeland, as well as international movers and shakers at the World Economic Forum on East Asia.

On arrival at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, she was whisked to a car amid heavy security, bypassing a large crowd of waiting journalists.

She'll return to Myanmar briefly and head to Europe in mid-June, with stops including Geneva and Oslo—to formally accept the Nobel Peace Prize she won 21 years ago.

In Dublin, she'll share a stage with U2 frontman Bono, a staunch Suu Kyi supporter, at a concert in her honor, according to Irish media. In England, she has been given the rare honor of addressing both houses of Parliament. France's Foreign Ministry says she also plans to stop in Paris.

AP

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at a hotel in Bangkok on Tuesday May 29, 2012.

The tour marks Suu Kyi's latest step in a stunning trajectory from housewife to political prisoner to opposition leader in Parliament, as Myanmar opens to the outside world and sheds a half century of military rule, with President Thein Sein getting her back for am ambitious program of reforms. Meetings with world leaders are planned along the way as dignitaries line up to shake Suu Kyi's hand.

Earlier Tuesday, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met with her in Yangon, saying her "life and her struggle, her determination has inspired millions of people all over the world" and inviting her to visit his country.

The trip "signifies a strong vote of confidence on Suu Kyi's part in the seriousness of the reforms underway in the country," said Suzanne DiMaggio, the Asia Society's vice president of Global Policy Programs. "She would not take the risk of the leaving Myanmar if she wasn't absolutely certain she would be allowed to return."

The last time the 66-year-old Nobel laureate flew abroad was a year before the Berlin Wall came down, in April 1988, when she traveled from London to Myanmar to nurse her dying mother.

The world in 1988, when Suu Kyi last left Myanmar

The world was a different place the last time Aung San Suu Kyi left Myanmar. The Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union still existed. Bangkok, the city Suu Kyi visits this week, now has towering skyscrapers, a subway and elevated rail system and slightly milder traffic jams.

Elsewhere in 1988:

■ Panama leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega was indicted in the United States on drug smuggling charges.

■ Prozac was introduced to the U.S. market and quickly became a leading treatment for depression.

■ Ben Johnson won the 100m gold at the Seoul Summer Olympics and was later disqualified for taking a steroid.

■ The Oscar for best picture went to "The Last Emperor," directed by Bernardo Bertolucci.

■ George Michael's song "Faith" was the No. 1 song on Billboard's year-end chart.

■ President Ronald Reagan was ending a second term and George H.W. Bush was elected to the White House.

■ The Iran-Iraq War—also known as the First Persian Gulf War—ended after eight years.

■ The first trans-Atlantic fiber optic cable was laid with capacity to carry 40,000 telephone calls simultaneously.

■ A Libyan terrorist attack on Pan Am Flight 103 killed 270 people over Lockerbie, Scotland.

NATO kills senior al-Qaida leader in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S.-led NATO force in Afghanistan killed al-Qaida's second-highest leader in the country in an airstrike in eastern Kunar province, the coalition said Tuesday.

Sakhr al-Taifi, also known as Mushtaq and Nasim, was responsible for commanding foreign insurgents in Afghanistan and directing attacks against NATO and Afghan forces, the alliance said. He frequently traveled between Afghanistan and Pakistan, carrying out commands from senior al-Qaida leadership and ferrying in weapons and fighters.

The airstrike that killed al-Taifi and another al-Qaida militant took place Sunday in Kunar's Watahpur district, the coalition said. A follow-on assessment of the area determined that no civilians were harmed, it said.

The coalition declined to reveal the name of al-Qaida's top leader in Afghanistan "due to ongoing operations and security concerns."

The U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan was carried out because al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden used the country as his base to plan the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington.

Most of al-Qaida's senior leaders are now believed to be based in Pakistan, where they fled following the U.S. invasion. The terrorist organization is believed to have only a nominal presence in Afghanistan.

Many senior al-Qaida commanders have died in U.S. drone attacks in Pakistan's northwest tribal region, and bin Laden was killed by U.S. commandos in the Pakistani town of Abbottabad last May.

Bin Laden advised al-Qaida militants to leave Pakistan's North and South Waziristan tribal areas because of the threat of drone attacks, according to letters seized from the compound where he was killed. The documents were later released by the U.S.

World

Syrian diplomats around the world expelled

PARIS (AP)—Governments around the world expelled Syrian ambassadors and diplomats Tuesday, an unusual, coordinated blow to Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime following a gruesome massacre that the United Nations said involved close-range shootings of scores of children and parents in their homes.

The United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria and the Netherlands took action Tuesday against Syrian diplomats. Britain's foreign secretary said the countries involved in Tuesday's expulsions would also push for tougher sanctions against Syria.

The moves came after the killings Friday in Houla, a collection of farming villages in Syria's Homs province—one of the deadliest single events in a 15-month-old uprising against Assad that has killed thousands.

A U.N. report Tuesday said 49 children and 34 women were among the 108 people who died, but it did not decisively say who carried out most of the killings.

"This is the most effective way we've got of sending a message of revulsion of what has happened in Syria," Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr said in Canberra. In a statement, he called the Houla killings a "hideous and brutal crime" and said Australia would not engage with the Syrian government unless it abides by a U.N. cease-fire plan.

Diplomats at the U.N., the European Union and the Arab League have been working since the Houla massacre to coordinate new action against Syria's government, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said.

The expulsions up the pressure on Syrian allies such as Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin is traveling to Germany and France this week and is likely to come under even greater criticism of his Syria-supportive stance.

"We have to continue our work with the Russians," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said. "We will continue to discuss this with Russia. Russia has particular leverage on the regime and therefore has a particular role in this crisis."

Hague said that the situation in Syria is more complicated than what international powers faced in Libya last year, when the United Nations approved intervention against dictator Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

The U.S. State Department said Tuesday that the charge d'affaires at the Syrian Embassy has been given 72 hours to leave the United States. Syria has not had an ambassador in the U.S. since the previous envoy left last year to take another post.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. holds "the Syrian government responsible for this slaughter of innocent lives."

Workers among 16 dead in latest big Italian quake

SAN FELICE SUL PANARO, Italy (AP)—Workers at the small machinery company had just returned for their first shift following Italy's powerful and deadly quake earlier this month when another one struck, collapsing the roof.

At least three employees at the factory—two immigrants and an Italian engineer checking the building's stability—were among those killed Tuesday in the second deadly quake in nine days to strike a region of Italy that hadn't considered itself particularly quake prone.

By late Tuesday, the death toll stood at 16, with one person missing : a worker at the machinery factory in the small town of San Felice Sul Panaro. Some 350 people also were injured in the 5.8 magnitude quake north of Bologna in Emilia Romagna, one of Italy's more productive agricultural and industrial regions. Originally government officials had put the death toll at 17, and there was no immediately explanation for the lowered figure.

The injured included a 65-year-old woman who was pulled out alive by rescuers after lying for 12 hours in the rubble of her apartment's kitchen in Cavezzo, another town hard hit by the quake. Firefighters told Sky TG24 TV that a piece of furniture, which had toppled over, saved her from being crushed by the wreckage. She was taken to a hospital for treatment.

The building had been damaged in the first quake, on May 20, and had been vacant since. The woman had just gone back inside it Tuesday morning to retrieve some clothes when the latest temblor knocked down the building, firefighters said.

Factories, barns and churches fell, dealing a second blow to a region where thousands remained homeless from the May 20 temblor, much stronger in intensity, at 6.0 magnitude.

The two quakes struck one of the most productive regions in Italy at a particularly crucial moment, as the country faces enormous pressure to grow its economy to stave off the continent's debt crisis. Italy's economic growth has been stagnant for at least a decade, and the national economy is forecast to contract by 1.2 percent this year.

The area encompassing the cities of Modena, Mantua and Bologna is prized for its super car production, churning out Ferraris, Maseratis and Lamborghinis; its world-famous Parmesan cheese, and less well-known but critical to the economy—its machinery companies.

Like the May 20 quake, many of the dead in Tuesday's temblor were workers inside huge warehouses, many of them prefabricated, that house factories. Inspectors have been determining which are safe to re-enter, but economic pressure has sped up renewed production—perhaps prematurely.

Seven people were killed in the May 20 quake. In both, the dead were largely and disproportionately workers killed by collapsing factories and warehouses.

WORLD BRIEFS

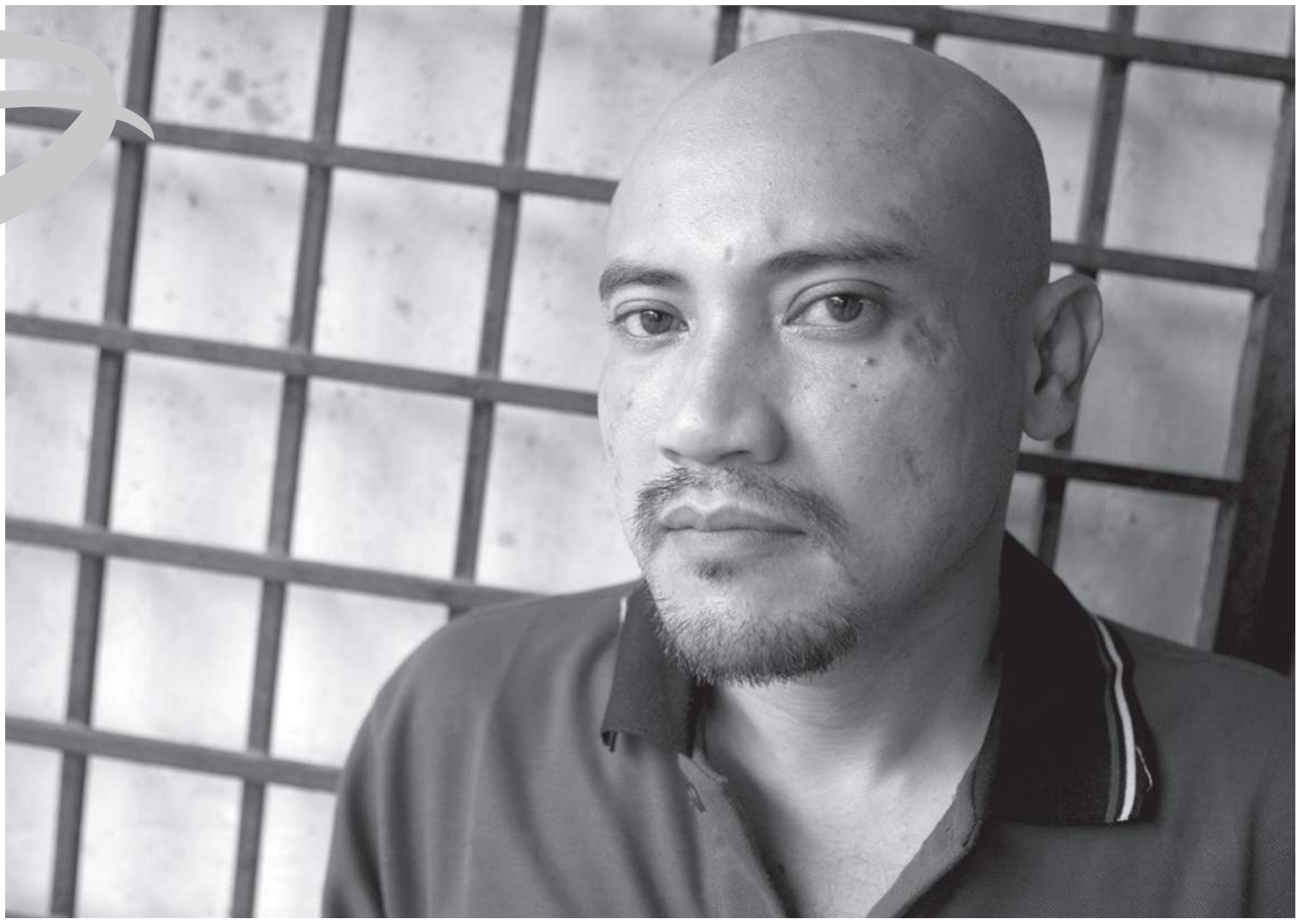
Iran, other Mideast states hit by computer virus

LONDON (AP)—Iran and other Middle East countries have been hit with a cunning computer virus that can eavesdrop on computer users and their co-workers and filch information from nearby cellphones, cybersecurity experts said Tuesday. And suspicion immediately fell on Israel as the culprit. The Russian Internet security firm Kaspersky Lab ZAO said the "Flame" virus is unprecedented in size and complexity, with researcher Roel Schouwenberg marveling at its versatility. "It can be used to spy on everything that a user is doing," he said.

Sudan pulls troops from oil-rich region

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Sudan withdrew its army Tuesday from the disputed Abyei border region that contains rich oil fields and is contested by neighboring South Sudan, handing it over to U.N. forces, the United Nations said. The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Abyei confirmed that the withdrawal of the Sudanese Armed Forces from the Abyei area was completed late Tuesday evening local time, Kieran Dwyer, spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping department in New York, told The Associated Press.

Focus



AP

In this May 22, 2012 photo, Nazarrudin Saidin, who was recently released after being kidnapped in the Philippines about a year ago, talks during an interview at his home near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tracking Terror: Malaysian tells Philippine ordeal

SUNGAI BULOH, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian wildlife trader held captive by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants for a year in the southern Philippines says he saw group members as young as 15 skilled in using M16 rifles that were prevalent in the impoverished region.

Nazarrudin Saidin's account in an interview with The Associated Press gives a rare glimpse into the operations of the al-Qaida-linked militant group, blamed for many ransom kidnappings, bomb attacks and beheadings over more than two decades.

It also details an ordeal that started in May of last year when masked gunmen abducted Nazarrudin on the Philippine island of Jolo, moving him to hideouts on other islands over the following 12 months. He escaped at one point and hid in a mangrove, only to return to his kidnappers out of hunger—"I felt like I was on the verge of dying." He finally escaped to safety two weeks ago.

"I saw teenagers as young as 15 walking around in the villages with M16 rifles and pistols," Nazarrudin said in a small, rundown home just north of Kuala Lumpur, where he lives with his wife, six children and parents near a palm oil plantation.

"Sometimes they practiced shooting in the jungle and seemed skillful in handling the weapons," he said, adding that he believed they were Abu Sayyaf members.

A 2011 U.N. report said other former Abu Sayyaf captives also have reported children in the group's ranks, but that the claims "could not be verified owing to security constraints." Photographs and TV footage taken inside Abu Sayyaf camps have appeared to confirm the presence of armed teenagers.

Abu Sayyaf has not commented publicly on child soldiers, but other militant Muslim groups in the Philippines have described a policy of admitting youths as young as 15 as trainees, while requiring them to be 18 before engaging in combat.

Abu Sayyaf's stated goal is a separate Islamic state in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines, though its fighters from impoverished villages are attracted more by ransom money than ideology.

U.S.-backed military strikes have weakened the group, which now numbers about 400 by military estimates, but it's still considered a threat to regional security and is currently suspected in the kidnapping of a former Australian soldier and a Japanese.

Nazarrudin said he saw only light weapons and machetes among his captors. He was mainly held indoors and did not know who the Abu Sayyaf leaders were. Nazarrudin said he rarely saw regular villagers, but his captivity for long stretches in various places indicated the militants still had the tacit support of communities in the region.

"I told them many times that I am not a rich man but they wanted money. They said they are poor and oppressed by their government but (I believe) as Muslims, they shouldn't do such things," he said.

The Abu Sayyaf raised $704,000 in 11 kidnappings in 2010 and killed six Filipino hostages whose families failed to pay a bounty, according to a government threat assessment obtained by The AP last year.

Nazarrudin, a former truck driver, apparently went to Jolo to obtain geckos, which are used in many Asian countries for medicines and tonics and are popular in the global pet trade.

He was sleeping in a friend's house one night when gunman stormed in and took him. He was handcuffed and forced to walk for hours in the dark to a village in the jungle, where he was kept in a hut. His captors removed his handcuffs after two weeks and fed him vegetables and sometimes fried rice.

After four months, Nazzarudin said he heard bombing sounds from afar. He was taken by speedboat to a fishing village on another island and held in a bamboo house on stilts near the sea.

> *I saw teenagers as young as 15 walking around in the villages with M16 rifles and pistols. Sometimes they practiced shooting in the jungle and seemed skillful in handling the weapons.*

A Philippine military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to comment to the media, said the militants would not likely have harmed Nazarrudin because of concerns it may prompt a backlash against thousands of Filipinos working nearby in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state on Borneo island.

But knowing his family couldn't afford what his captors said was a ransom of 5 million pesos ($116,000), Nazarrudin sneaked out early one morning and ran as fast as he could.

He hid in a mangrove swamp, trying to avoid snakes and eating raw snails and mud crabs to survive.

"After a month, I felt like I was on the verge of dying. I was very weak and had little energy left. So I surrendered myself. It was better than having to die alone in the swamp," he said.

Back in the village, he was surprised to see another hostage at the house and later found out it was a Malaysian ethnic Chinese fish trader. They were later joined by a third captive—Biju Kolara Veetil from India—but were allowed to speak to each other only after a few weeks.

Veetil told Nazarrudin he was abducted while visiting his wife's hometown in Sulu province. Police have said they are trying to verify intelligence reports that Veetil might have been killed even after a ransom was paid.

The three men were moved to a swamp area after the militants heard about a possible sting operation by Philippine troops. Guarded by eight gunmen, they camped there for weeks before returning to the village.

Nazarrudin was later taken to another island while the other two captives remained behind. After several weeks, he was brought back to Jolo to another secluded hillside village, where he escaped for the second time.

The gunmen pursued him for hours, firing warning shots into the air and furiously calling out for him. He eluded them, trekking for three days to a village where he met someone who helped him secure a nearly 10-hour boat ride to Sabah.

Last week, Nazarrudin flew back to Kuala Lumpur for a tearful family reunion.

"This experience has made me a better man but I will never return to the Philippines again," he said.

Environment

Carbon dioxide emissions reach record high

By NEELA BANERJEE
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide reached an all-time high last year, further reducing the chances that the world could avoid a dangerous rise in global average temperature by 2020, according to the International Energy Agency, the energy analysis group for the world's most industrialized states.

Global emissions of carbon-dioxide, or CO2, from fossil-fuel combustion hit a record high of 31.6 gigatonnes in 2011, according to the IEA's preliminary estimates, an increase of 1 Gt, or 3.2 percent from 2010.

The burning of coal accounted for 45 percent of total energy-related CO2 emissions in 2011, followed by oil (35 percent) and natural gas (20 percent).

According to the vast majority of climatologists, the rapid rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere because of industrialization over the last 150 years has led to an increase in global average temperature by about 1 degree Celsius.

Scientists and the IEA contend that countries need to keep the global average temperature from rising by more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) in order to avoid profound damage to life on Earth, from water and food scarcity to rising sea levels to greater incidence and severity of disease.

Last year's jump in carbon emissions sets the world even more firmly on the path to hurtle past a 2 degree Celsius increase. "The new data provide further evidence that the door to a 2C trajectory is about to close," said IEA Chief Economist Fatih Birol.

China is the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide, followed by the United States, the European Union and India. Although China's emissions rose significantly because of its coal consumption, the increase would have been more substantial had the country not taken steps over the last decade to improve energy efficiency and deploy cleaner power sources, Birol said.

First Friday Films celebrates 2nd anniversary with 'Ocean Frontiers'

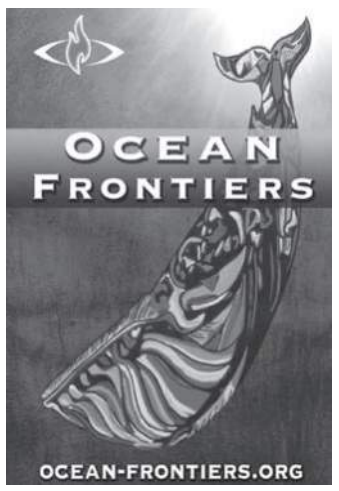
Come help us celebrate our 2nd anniversary and World Oceans Day! First Friday Films is celebrating by showing the film *Ocean Frontiers*, sponsored by the Pacific Marine Resources Institute on June 1, 2012, at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

In addition, we will have a short presentation by Dr. Peter Houk of Pacific Marine Resources Institute.

Following the film, audience members will also be invited into the courtyard of the Visitor's Center for a brief reception.

Ocean Frontiers takes us on an inspiring voyage to seaports and watersheds across the country—from the busy shipping lanes of Boston Harbor to a small fishing community in the Pacific Northwest; from America's coral reefs in the Florida Keys to the nation's premier seafood nursery in the Mississippi Delta. Here we meet a mixture of unlikely allies, of industrial shippers and whale biologists, pig farmers and wetland ecologists, sport and commercial fishermen, reef snorkelers and many more, all of them embarking on a new course of cooperation, in defense of the seas that sustain us. Filmed in HD, *Ocean Frontiers* is a documentary and outreach campaign to inspire and mobilize audiences to better care for the ocean, for the good of all.

Exhibits by DEQ Marine Monitoring Team, Pacific Marine Resources Institute, and Marianas Island Nature Alliance will be on



display in the lobby area of the American Visitors Center before and after the film.

After the film and courtyard reception, moviegoers are invited to join the First Friday Films crew for dinner at Spicy Thai across the Park to discuss the films they've viewed and the future of our film program.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups and organizations such as the Pacific Marine Resources Institute, which is sponsoring this film.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public.

Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. ***(DEQ)***

Unstoppable fungal disease strikes endangered gray bats

By Renee Schoof
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—White-nose syndrome, the disease that's killed millions of insect-eating bats, keeps getting worse. It's made a thumb-sized bat rare in parts of New England and has spread through most of the Eastern U.S., as far west as Missouri. Now another species has it, the endangered gray bat of caves in the Southeast.

The loss of bats is serious because they provide natural pest control. They live throughout the country, and the disease could end up almost everywhere as well. In places where bat populations have been lost, it could be decades before they recover, scientists say.

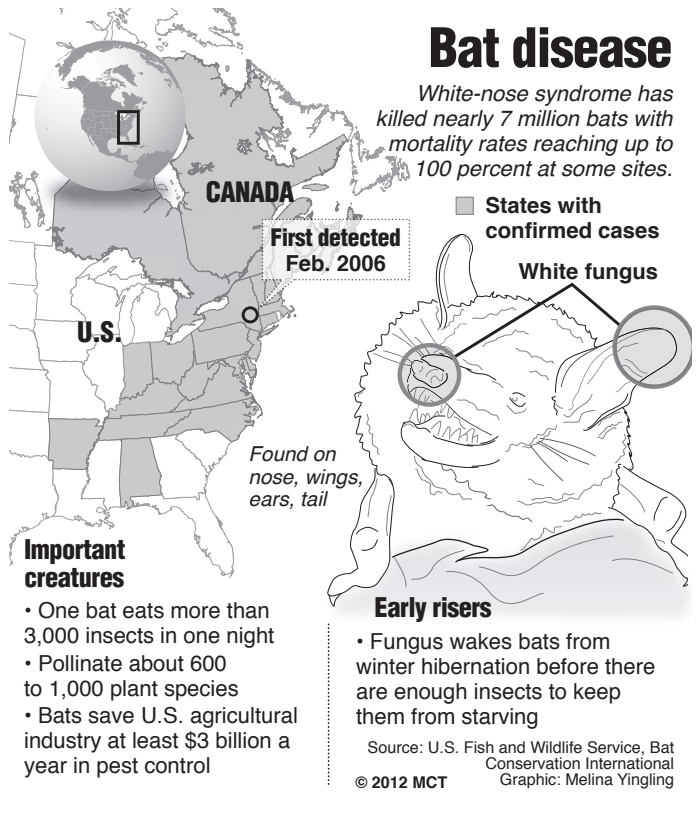
The fungus that causes white-nose syndrome spreads in cold weather, when bats hibernate. Gray bats might be especially vulnerable because they hibernate in huge numbers in only a few caves. The mortality rate differs among species of bats that have the disease, but in some cases it's nearly 100 percent.

The gray bat was listed as being in danger of extinction in 1976, but its population had been growing. Although it's too early tell how hard white-nose syndrome will hit the gray bat, Paul McKenzie, the Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species coordinator for Missouri, said the discovery was "devastating news."

"Because gray bats hibernate together in colonies that number in the hundreds of thousands, (white-nose syndrome) could expand exponentially across the range of the species," McKenzie said Tuesday in a news release. A loss of gray bats also could destroy other cave-dwelling species that live off the bats' guano.

Biologists recently saw the tell-tale white fungus on the muzzles, tails and wings of several gray bats in Hawkins and Montgomery counties in Tennessee. The bat's main range, besides Tennessee, is Alabama, northern Arkansas, Kentucky and Missouri.

First detected in Albany, N.Y., in 2006, white-nose syndrome spread through the Northeast and down the Appalachians. In the winter of 2010-11, it hit the Midwest. This March it was reported for the first time in Alabama and Missouri, and in Acadia and Great Smoky Mountains national parks. The disease is now found in four Canadian provinces and 19 states.


Bat disease
White-nose syndrome has killed nearly 7 million bats with mortality rates reaching up to 100 percent at some sites.
CANADA
First detected Feb. 2006
U.S.
States with confirmed cases
White fungus
Found on nose, wings, ears, tail
Important creatures
• One bat eats more than 3,000 insects in one night
• Pollinate about 600 to 1,000 plant species
• Bats save U.S. agricultural industry at least $3 billion a year in pest control
Early risers
• Fungus wakes bats from winter hibernation before there are enough insects to keep them from starving
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bat Conservation International
© 2012 MCT
Graphic: Melina Yingling

DO YOUR PARK

Grill up healthier meats and seafood

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Summer is in full swing. The pools are open, school is winding down, and the barbeque grills are firing up. Before you put that burger, chicken, or seafood over the flame, ask yourself what you really know about what you're grilling. It's more important than ever these days to Do Your Part and be informed while you shop to make a healthier choices for your family and friends.

To find out how the beef or chicken you're getting was raised and fed talk to your butcher or check out the label before buying. If you're looking for organic meats, seek out the USDA Organic label. This label verifies that the cattle were given only organic feed and were not injected with growth hormones or antibiotics.

Another important question—are the meats you're buying local? Any seasoned butcher will be able to tell you the farm they're from. Supporting local farms keeps money in your community and cuts down on the miles food travels to get to your table. This goes for locally grown vegetables too, which are a tasty addition to your grilling menu.

For the seafood lovers in the group, it's important to be informed about which seafood to buy and which to avoid. There are easy guides to sustainable seafood choices online and a number of free apps available for your smartphone. You'll find a list at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

Grilling is the perfect way to give your energy hungry oven the night off. It's more efficient to cook on a gas grill but if you have a charcoal grill—don't chuck it! Instead, use additive-free and all-natural charcoals. Also, eliminate the need to use toxic lighter fluid by spending a few dollars on a chimney starter that will get your coals hot in just a matter of minutes and will actually save you money in the long run.

All of us will be hosting or hitting a barbecue this summer. When it comes to enjoying the meals of the season, Do Your Park and pick the foods you grill wisely. It's better for your health and the health of our planet.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of "Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living" available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

"Do Your Part" and grill up healthier meats and seafood. MCT

Life & Style

Elaborate Portland wedding proposal goes viral

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Isaac Lamb acknowledges that his five-minute, block-long choreographed build-up to a marriage proposal has upped the stakes for everyone who follows.

"Guys, I'm sorry," he said on NBC's "Today" show Tuesday. "That wasn't my intention."

The Portland-area thespian's creative proposal last week to girlfriend Amy Frankel featured about 60 people dancing on a small street near his parents' home. Video of the performance has gone viral, notching more than 6 million YouTube hits so far.

Lamb is pitching it as the world's first lip-synched proposal, and there don't appear to be any challengers.

The video begins with Lamb's brother putting headphones over Frankel's ears as she sits facing out the back of an SUV, her legs dangling over the rear bumper.

"This song tends to exemplify you and Isaac's relationship to me," the brother tells her, and there begins Bruno Mars' sugar-pop, up-tempo ballad "Marry You."

The car starts moving and two of the couple's friends roll into the frame, then a few more. It was nothing that seemed too out of the ordinary, Frankel told NBC's "Today." She and Lamb are actors and are used to elaborate stunts.

Frankel thought: "Oh, they're doing something with Isaac's family," she told the show. "There's seven of them. This is so sweet."

A second camera—the one that gives the video its emotional heft—is perched above Frankel's face, capturing her reaction. It shows her as she crosses her hands on her chest, shakes her head, giggles and swoons.

The proposal is elaborate but not expensive, choreographed but not constrained. In this city where the television show "Portlandia" suggested young people go to retire, most of the dancers in the video look like they fell off the bus from central casting headed for its set.

For all the pageantry, though, the proposal itself was pretty simple.

"You have already given me a lifetime of happiness," Lamb tells Frankel when the music stops. "Will you let me spend the rest of my life trying to give you the same? Will you marry me?" She nods, and they kiss as a man in the background wearing a marching-band costume wipes away a tear.

Lamb's proposal is not the first wedding-themed video to go viral. Jill and Kevin's wedding entrance dance from 2009 set the standard for matrimonial cool and—at 75 million online views—spawned countless imitators.

The song Lamb picked, on its face, sounds ideal—"Marry You" is a kind of proposal. Except its lyrics say: "It's a beautiful night. We're looking for something dumb to do." And they round out with: "Who cares if we're trashed, got a pocket full of cash we can blow. Shots of Patron, and it's on."

Asked on "Today" about her favorite moment of the dance routine, Frankel said it was when she first saw Lamb appear on the street.

"When they all parted, and there was Isaac," she said. "That was the first time I think I took a breath."

AP

This May 25, 2012, photo, shows actor Isaac Lamb and Amy Frankel in Portland, Ore. Lamb joined about 60 people on a small street near his house last week to propose to Frankel.

'Fifty Shades' reading is not always so discreet

NEW YORK (AP)—Ashley Cummings had a little mishap while engrossed in "Fifty Shades of Grey" on her way to the San Francisco subway. Head down, clutching her iPad, she ran smack into a fellow pedestrian. When the downloaded culprit became clear, her victim went from grumpy to new friend.

It's not the only time the 24-year-old publicist's e-edition was something less than private. Across the country in Connecticut, her 13-year-old brother wondered why she was reading "those sex books" when they also showed up on his iPad, since the two share an account.

"I laughed it off," Cummings said, "and proceeded to lock him out!"

Much has been made of the erotic trilogy's success thanks to discreet e-books, but whether downloaded or between paper covers, it has made for many a twisted life scenario since a mainstream publisher acquired rights and shot it out into the world nearly two months ago.

Margie Goolan's reading group with five, 40-something girlfriends in Novato, Calif., just finished "Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman" by Robert K. Massie. Before that it was "Tinkers," a Pulitzer-winning journey into the painful past of a dying clock repairer, by Paul Harding.

Highbrow be damned for their next meeting. They succumbed to Grey, though Goolan was pulling for Brian Doyle's "Mink River," the lyrical story of quirky, fictional townsfolk along the Oregon coast.

"I had a laugh when I bought 'Fifty Shades' at the small local bookstore," said Goolan, in San Francisco's north bay area. "I'm in there often. When I told him that it's my book club's selection so I get the store's book club discount, he just smiled and said 'so it's gotten that far already.'"

So much further, Mr. Bookseller.

Some Grey-lings proudly brandish their copies in public, posting and tweeting photos of themselves with their prizes for fun or as some sort of kinky badge of honor. Others won't leave the house with their books, while an unknown number are going the e-route.

Random House and its Vintage Books paperback imprint have sold more than 10 million copies of the rough-sex love story across all formats, including audiobooks. The publisher won't break down the sales by e-book versus paperback, but you know who you are (no judgment, just sayin').

Meagan Feeser, 30, in York, Pa., is a Kindle kind of Grey girl.

"It's embarrassing enough without everyone around you knowing that you're essentially reading pornography in their presence, not to mention the fact that I'm 37 weeks pregnant, so I would look like a walking stereotype," she said.

A walking "Fifty Shades Freed" stereotype. The last of the three books has once-innocent Ana enjoying a round or two of pregnant sex, Christian Grey style. Feeser's all-female reading group took on the books in May. Two among them "loved it." Two, Feeser included, "are having a hard time finishing the first one." And two "never read any of the books and just come for the wine."

Turns out Feeser lives in a hotbed for "Fifty Shades," according to the book site Goodreads, one of the first places where the phenom surfaced.

The site looked at readership among 8.6 million members around the country to see which areas are the most Grey, weighting the data to account for population and membership fluctuations.

The highest concentration of "Fifty Shades" readers was in the East's tri-state and New England regions, though the books by London mom E L James were liked more in southern and plains states than anywhere else in the country, Goodreads said.

Dan Malkin, 24, of New York City found himself in a strange Grey moment when he whipped out his copy on a bus to Boston, earning him funny looks from his female seatmate. A stolen glance at her Kindle revealed that she, too, was reading "Fifty Shades."

"The real question in my mind," he puzzled, "was did she know that I knew?"

Lisa Holden, 26, in San Francisco was on a train when she pulled a fast one on a lovely, elderly gentleman after he struck up a conversation about reading devices, like the Kindle she was cradling as she read "Fifty Shades."

When their chat rolled around to what she was reading, "In a quick panic I lied and said `Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close.' I wouldn't read this book without using my Kindle. It keeps me from having to talk to a stranger about spanking."

To heck with that, declares Patty Vonder Heide, 56, in suburban Chicago. She usually likes to read on her iPhone but chucked it in favor of hard copy for "Fifty Shades" when she found herself distracted by the constant page turns.

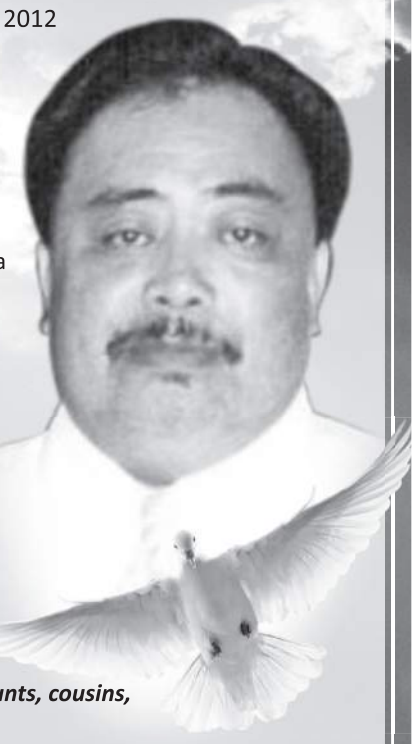
"I'll purchase the next book in print and will take it to the pool or beach this summer for sure," said the speech pathologist and mom of two grown children.

In Orlando, Fla., 25-year-old Laura Keesee has never been more thankful for her iPad as she read all three books nonstop. She's looking forward to re-reading without questions about why she's lugging around THOSE books again.

In Celebration of His New Life

Miguel Aguon Arriola

July 31, 1956 — May 26, 2012



In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Father: Antonio Santos Arriola
Mother: Cecilia Aguon Arriola
Brothers: Candido A. Arriola
Vicente A. Arriola
Francisco A. Arriola
Paternal Grandparents:
Vicente San Miguel & Abelina Santos Arriola
Maternal Grandparents:
Vicente Babauta & Ana Muna Aguon

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Brothers/Sisters & Spouses:
Francisca A. & Ramon T. Sablan
Jesus A. & Violy C. Arriola
Abelina A. & Mar Cruz
†Francisco A. Arriola & Patricia Santos
Mariano A. & Judy Z. Arriola
Jose A. Arriola/Tina Fujihira
Antonio A. & Lorraine T. Arriola
Maria A. & Newly Agulto
John Wayne Arriola
Jayson Arriola

He will additionally be missed by numerous, uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and relatives.

Mass of intention is being said nightly at 6:00 pm followed immediately by the Holy Rosary at San Antonio Church.

On Sunday, June 3, 2012, mass of intention will be said at 9:00 am followed immediately by the Holy Rosary.

On Monday, June 4, 2012, his body will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Home to San Antonio Church at 7:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

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Friday, May 25th through Thursday, May 31st, 2012
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Men In Black 3

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:45
Saturday and Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, and director Barry Sonnenfeld return to the kooky world of the top-secret government agents who protect our planet from hostile aliens in this third entry of the Men in Black film series. This will be the first film in the franchise to be presented in 3D. Flight of the Conchords' Jemaine Clement co-stars as the main baddie, Yaz, with Josh Brolin lending his talents as the younger version of Jones' character.

Chernobyl Diaries

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:30
Saturday and Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:30
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jesse McCartney, Carey Van Dyke
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Six tourists hire an extreme tour guide who takes them to the abandoned city Pripyat, the former home to the workers of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor. During their exploration, they soon discover they are not alone.

Battleship

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch
Science fiction, War • Rated PG 13

What To Expect When You're Expecting

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday and Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Dictator

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday and Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Sacha Baron Cohen, Ana Faris
Comedy • Rated R

Dark Shadows

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday and Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Horror • Rated PG 13

Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

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Theron's evil queen wears feathers, beetle wings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlize Theron's evil queen costumes for "Snow White and the Huntsman" called for hundreds of hand-cut rooster feathers, thousands of iridescent beetle wings from Thailand and one particularly imposing crown.

AP

This May 3, 2012 photo shows Academy Award-winning costume designer Colleen Atwood with a costume from the film "Snow White and the Huntsman" in Los Angeles.

The outfits, some of which are on view at an LA pop-up gallery ahead of the film's June 1 opening, represented a host of firsts for Academy Award-winning costume designer Colleen Atwood.

From the leather piping on the pleats of the queen's wedding gown to the gauzy green metal trim on the beetle-wing dress, the nine-time Oscar nominee and three-time winner experimented with materials for director Rupert Sanders' dark take on the classic fairy tale.

"The idea of the fairy tale sets you free in a way because you can make it up," Atwood said. "And I love to make up stuff."

She created an armored ensemble fit for a queen by dressing up chain mail with rolled leather and horsehair trim and topping it off with a particularly pointy metal crown.

"We wanted to have a formidable silhouette," Atwood said, "and from a distance it's spooky with the crown and her height and everything." (Theron stands nearly six feet tall, the designer added.)

In Sanders' version of the Snow White story, Kristen Stewart portrays the only woman in the land fairer than Theron's evil queen Ravenna. The queen dispatches a huntsman (Chris Hemsworth) to kill the young woman, but instead he becomes her mentor and protector.

Atwood took on the project after finishing work on Tim Burton's "Dark Shadows," starring Johnny Depp. Atwood and Burton are frequent and successful collaborators: Her most recent Oscar was for his 2010 film "Alice in Wonderland," and she earned nominations for her costumes in Burton's "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" and "Sleepy Hollow."

Atwood's "Snow White" costumes are miles—and eras—away from "Dark Shadows."

"They don't resemble each other in any way," she said, "so it was fun to shift from one to the other and have a whole different world to think about."

And slide right into. "Snow White" director Sanders said Atwood's wardrobes "blend seamlessly into this world, and they speak volumes about the world and its characters."

Theron agreed. From the wedding dress, with its architectural shoulders that appear to be made from bones, to the twice-embroidered gown that eventually resembles an old, peeling skin, Atwood's costumes reflect the evil queen's obsession with appearances.

"Every costume had a feeling of not quite what it seems," Theron said. "In a way, these dresses were like torture devices for Ravenna. I love that because I feel like Ravenna was, in a way, more torturous toward herself than to the people she was killing."

To minimize the actual on-set torture, Atwood employed a team of about 50 people to help the actors in and out of the elaborate costumes.

But the beetle wings remain dangerous. Thousands of the hard, brittle wings decorate the evil queen's regal dress of silk and metal mesh.

"They're incredibly sharp, so I had to be careful about how I used them. If you hit them, you can hurt yourself," the designer said. "They're quite treacherous, which really suited the character."

Obama honors Medal of Freedom recipients as heroes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sketching impressive contributions to society in intensely personal terms, President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Freedom to more than a dozen political and cultural greats Tuesday, including rocker Bob Dylan, astronaut John Glenn and novelist Toni Morrison.

In awarding the nation's highest civilian honor to 13 recipients, living and dead, the president took note of the overflow crowd in the East Room and said it was "a testament to how cool this group is. Everybody wanted to check 'em out."

Obama then spoke of his personal connection to a number of this year's recipients, calling them "my heroes individually."

"I know how they impacted my life," the president said. He recalled reading Morrison's "Song of Solomon" in his youth and "not just trying to figure out how to write, but also how to be and how to think."

In college days, Obama said, he listened to Dylan and recalled "my world opening up, because he captured something about this country that was so vital." Dylan's appearance drew the biggest whoops from the crowd, and he dressed for the event—sunglasses, bow tie and black suit embellished with shiny buckles and buttons.

Obama also recalled reading about union pathbreaker Dolores Huerta when he was starting out as a community organizer.

"Everybody on this stage has marked my life in profound ways," he said.

Obama added that Pat Summitt, who led the University of Tennessee women's basketball team to more NCAA Final Four appearances than any other team, had helped pave the way for his two daughters, "who are tall and gifted."

"They're standing up straight and diving after loose balls and feeling confident and strong," he said. "I understand that the impact that these people have had extends beyond me. It will continue for generations to come."

The Medal of Freedom is presented to people who have made meritorious contributions to the national interests of the United States, to world peace or to other significant endeavors.

Other honorees:

■ Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the first woman to hold the job.

■ John Paul Stevens, former Supreme Court justice.

■ Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts, who died in 1927.

■ Shimon Peres, president of Israel, who is to receive his medal at a White House dinner next month.

■ John Doar, who handled civil rights cases as assistant attorney general in the 1960s.

■ William Foege, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who helped lead the effort to eradicate smallpox.

■ Gordon Hirabayashi, who fought the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. He died in January.

■ Jan Karski, a resistance fighter against the Nazi occupation of Poland during World War II. He died in 2000.

Huerta co-founded the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers of America. Glenn was the first American to orbit the earth. Dylan's vast catalog of songs includes such rock classics as "Like a Rolling Stone," "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Mr. Tambourine Man."

Actor Peter Dinklage goes to bat for farm animals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In "Game of Thrones," Peter Dinklage's character is constantly steeped in battle over control of a mythical kingdom. After the show's season finale on Sunday, Dinklage plans to take his fight to the farm.

Dinklage, 42, will spend his off season promoting a campaign to change the way society treats farm animals as national spokesman for Farm Sanctuary's annual Walk for Farm Animals.

Dinklage

The actor, who has been a vegetarian since he was 16, has won an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his role in the HBO series. He said he joined the cause because he felt "animals used for food are treated like unfeeling machinery."

Farm Sanctuary, which provides care for more than 1,300 rescued farm animals, will put on walks in more than 35 cities across the country this fall.

CNN hiring chef Anthony Bourdain for weekend show

NEW YORK (AP)—Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain will begin hosting a new show next year on—of all places—the news network CNN.

The weekend show on food and travel represents a departure for CNN in both content and procedure. CNN usually does its programming in-house, but in this case an outside production company tied to Bourdain will make the series.

It will air on Sunday nights in prime time and be repeated on Saturday nights.

Bourdain has done programs on both the Travel Channel and Food Network, and also appeared in the Bravo competition Top Chef. His CNN show will feature cultures around the world through the prism of dining traditions.

"We have license to love a wide variety of news, not just war and politics, but other things that reflect all aspects of our lives," said Mark Whitaker, CNN executive vice president and managing editor.

Bourdain

CNN also wants to do more to distinguish its weekend programming from its weekday offerings, Whitaker said. The network is looking at other things, he said, but he would not discuss them on Tuesday.

Bourdain's program will be made by Zero Point Zero Productions. CNN is aggressively considering proposals by outsiders, Whitaker said, something that it has rarely, if ever, done in the past.

The food show should not be considered a model for CNN programming during the week, he said. The domestic news network has suffered two of its worst ratings weeks over the past 20 years during the past month.

Whitaker said CNN continues to look at programming choices for weekdays but had no changes to announce.

Author's son seeks Malcolm X letter at Syracuse

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The son of Malcolm X's biographer is asking Syracuse University to hand over a letter in which the slain activist writes about his shifting views on race relations, claiming his family is the rightful owner.

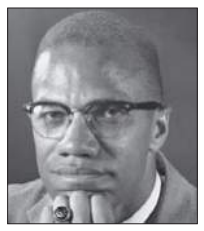
Malcolm X wrote to Alex Haley, his collaborator for "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," from Saudi Arabia in April 1964, about ten months before he was gunned down at a New York City hotel ballroom. The publisher of the autobiography later gave the letter to Syracuse University as part of a larger cache of papers to be used by researchers.

But Haley's son, William Haley, said the publisher never had legal title to the letter and could not give it away. His lawyer said Tuesday he plans to make a legal demand this week for the letter, which he believes is worth at least $650,000.

"The history is important for us as a family, the legacy," William Haley said. Haley said he was acting on behalf of himself and his two sisters. Haley said it's possible the family would decide to sell the letter, but that would be a group decision.

Alex Haley died in 1992.

"So much of African-American history gets lost and is sometimes not in the place where we prefer it to be," Haley said.



Malcolm X

Malcolm X's letter, written after a pilgrimage to Mecca, addresses the recent time he spent with Muslims "whose skin was the whitest of white."

"In fact, what I have seen and experienced on this pilgrimage has forced me to `re arrange' much of my thought patterns, and to toss aside some of my previous conclusions," he wrote.

The letter was sent to publisher Grove Press for inclusion in the autobiography, which was first published in 1965. Grove included the letter in files it gave to Syracuse University in 1969.

Sean M. Quimby, senior director of the university's Special Collections Research Center, said it has documentation from Grove that shows Syracuse owns the transferred archive. He said the school's ownership had never been challenged before in 43 years and he has not seen any evidence that the letter was lent, instead of given, to Grove.

"Our library and our special collections are publicly available to anyone, and there is a greater good served," Quimby added.

Haley's attorney, Gregory J. Reed of Detroit, said Haley passed along the letter to Grove only so it could be included in the autobiography and that Grove never had legal title.

Haley said he is acting now because he only found out about details of the letter recently after talking to Reed, who collects Malcolm X material.

Polish orchestra plays Mozart's Requiem in protest

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A Polish opera house has performed Mozart's Requiem—a funeral piece—in front of the Culture Ministry in Warsaw to protest cuts to its budget.

The Chamber Opera's orchestra, choir and soloists performed Tuesday to the hearty applause of hundreds of people. A large banner saying, "Minister, Only You Can Save the Chamber Opera," hung above the artists.

They handed a ministry official a letter signed by some 20,000 people asking Culture Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski to secure funds for the opera. Otherwise, they say, it will have to close in the summer.

AP

The orchestra, choir and soloists of the Chamber Opera that specializes in Mozart's music perform his Requiem, the Funeral Mass in front of the Culture Ministry in Warsaw, Poland on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 to protest recent cuts in the opera's budget and to seek government protection.

There was no immediate reply from the ministry, which is instituting cuts as a broader government cost-reduction effort.

The 50-year-old Warsaw-based opera is known for its annual festivals of all of Mozart's opera compositions.

Jury to hear No Doubt's claims against game maker

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No Doubt's attorneys can argue to a jury that the band was misled by gaming giant Activision Publishing Inc. about how its likeness would be used in the video game "Band Hero," a judge ruled Tuesday.

The ruling by Superior Court Judge Ramona See rejected a motion by Activision's lawyers to dismiss several claims from the case, including fraud, violation of publicity rights and breach of contract. See determined there were genuine disputes about evidence that a jury should consider.

No Doubt sued the Santa Monica, Calif.-based video game company in November 2009, claiming the band was never told that players would be able to unlock avatars of the band to perform other artists' music.

The case cited instances in which players could use singer Gwen Stefani to perform suggestive lyrics from the Rolling Stones' hit "Honky Tonk Women," or have a virtual version of bassist Tony Kanal sing his band's hit "Just a Girl," but with Stefani's voice.

The lawsuit claimed the feature turns the band "into a virtual karaoke circus act."

See denied on a technical basis a request for an injunction barring Activision from using band members' likenesses to perform other artists' work, although No Doubt could still pursue such an order if it wins at trial.

Activision has claimed the idea of "unlocking" unadvertised features of a video game has been around since the early days of the industry and the company did nothing wrong.

Attorneys expect the case will go to trial later this year.

Jeffery McFarland, who represents Activision, said the company has a strong defense and is looking forward to presenting it during trial. During the hearing, he said the company had a video recording of the band being told about the game's unlockable features.

The band's attorney Bert Deixler said the ruling "seemed inevitable" and noted No Doubt has repeatedly won the right to pursue the case, in both state and appellate courts.

Marriage isn't in the cards for widower and girlfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 70-year-old widower with three grown children. My girlfriend is 53. We dated for several months before she moved in with me. I thought maybe with her living here I might fall in love with her. It has not, and will not, happen.

I hate to break her heart, but I know now that I will never ask her to marry me. I intend to remain single for the rest of my life.

How do I bring closure to this relationship? What are the words? I'm lost because this is a first for me. I was married for 40 years, and I just do not wish to be married again. How do I tell this nice lady?

IN A BIND IN TEXAS

DEAR IN A BIND: Having the woman move in with you "hoping" you would fall in love with her was a huge mistake, and one you should not repeat. When you say what you need to say, have plenty of tissue handy and expect her to be tearful and angry.

Start by saying, "We need to talk." Tell her she has done nothing wrong, and it is not a failure on her part, but you realize that you do not wish to remarry. Explain that feeling as you do, it would be best if she moved. Offer to help her find a place if she has nowhere to go. You will be doing both of you a favor by being upfront NOW.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a young, recently married woman. My husband and I are at the point where we're thinking about having kids. My brother married a close friend of mine not long after my wedding. My sister-in-law has a medical condition that may prevent her from having children.

I am very close to my brother and his wife, and I can see the writing on the wall. She brought up surrogacy once in passing, as a possible alternative if she can't have kids.

If I'm asked to be the surrogate, what advice do you have? I would be more than willing to consider it, but only after my husband and I have had our own children. Would it be selfish of me to also expect some compensation for my time and the toll it will take on my body? I want to be ready if and when I'm asked. What would be the best way to explain my reasoning to her?

BACKUP MOM IN THE NORTHWEST

DEAR BACKUP MOM: You are an intelligent woman and you are asking good questions. You should explain your thinking to your sister-in-law as you have addressed them in your letter. It would be wise to consult an attorney who specializes in adoption/surrogacy to learn about the laws and procedures that apply in your state.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am an adult male with a longtime problem. Whether it's a sad or happy occasion, I start crying, sometimes sobbing. I try to avoid any situation that may cause this.

I am at a new point in my life where I can no longer avoid these situations. People think it's not normal. Please don't suggest I live with it. Is there a magic pill to control this?

BIG CRYBABY IN BROOKLYN, N.Y.

DEAR CRYBABY: There is no pill that can help you control those emotions that I know of. And because it is causing you problems, I do not recommend you "live with it." I do think, however, that if you discuss with a therapist what it is about sad and happy occasions that causes such an extreme reaction that you could get quickly to the bottom of it and learn to better control those emotions.

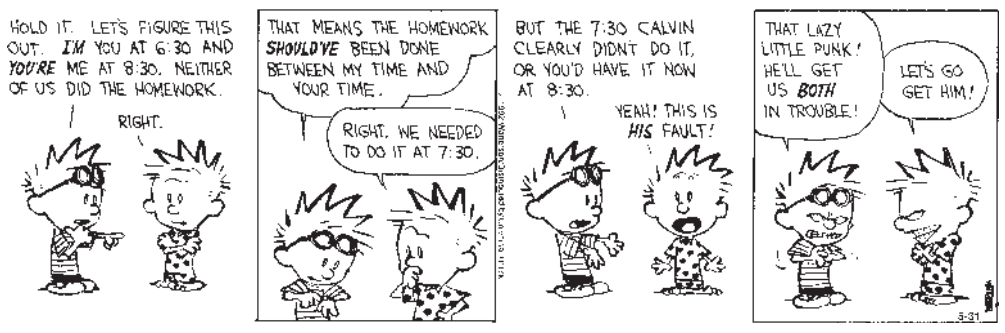
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOLD IT. LET'S FIGURE THIS OUT. I'M YOU AT 6:30 AND YOU'RE ME AT 8:30. NEITHER OF US DID THE HOMEWORK.
RIGHT.
THAT MEANS THE HOMEWORK SHOULD'VE BEEN DONE BETWEEN MY TIME AND YOUR TIME.
RIGHT. WE NEEDED TO DO IT AT 7:30.
BUT THE 7:30 CALVIN CLEARLY DIDN'T DO IT, OR YOU'D HAVE IT NOW AT 8:30.
YEAH! THIS IS HIS FAULT!
THAT LAZY LITTLE PUNK! HE'LL GET US BOTH IN TROUBLE!
LET'S GO GET HIM!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

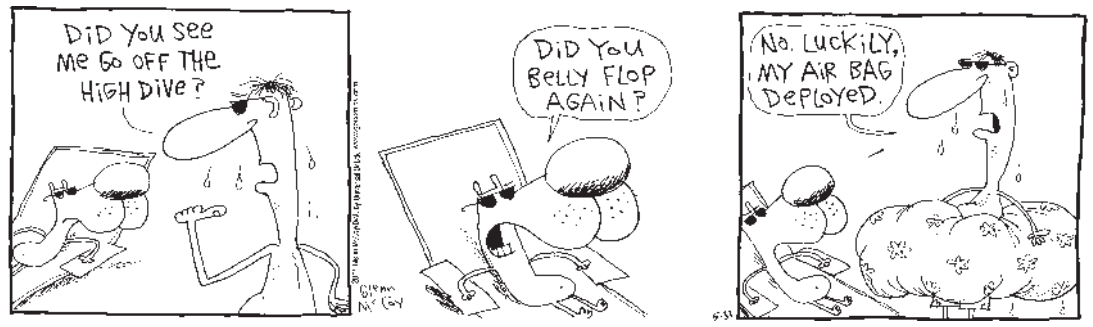
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO, I'M SETTING MY CLOCK TO THE RIGHT TIME.
I'LL SEE YOU IN THE FUTURE THEN.
UH-HUH.
WITH ITS FLYING CARS AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL PERSONALITIES.
OKAY, NOSTRADAMUS.
YOU WON'T BE SMILING WHEN I FLY MY CAR INTO THE SKY!!
YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU'RE DELUSIONAL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

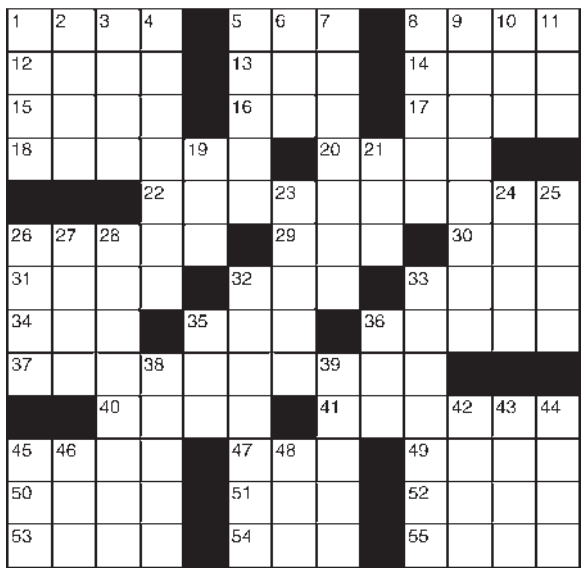
1 Physicist Niels
5 Dine
8 Enervates
12 Sheltered
13 Tray contents
14 Small combo
15 Authentic
16 Ultramodernist
17 On in years
18 Senility
20 Beige
22 Supernatural
26 Tumbler
29 Party bowlful
30 Swelled head
31 Mature
32 Half dozen
33 Uppity one
34 Mischievous kid
35 Expert
36 Expenditure
37 Drop cloths?
40 Choir member
41 Oliver Twist, e.g.
45 Use scissors
47 Legislation
49 Continental coin
50 Luxurious
51 Hearty brew
52 Antony's love, for short
53 Vicinity
54 Disencumber
55 Chore

DOWN

1 Shakespeare, for one
2 Bread spread
3 Warmth
4 Get sick again
5 More logical
6 Handle
7 Suns' spot?
8 Beatle surname
9 Quarrel
10 Chart format
11 Turf
19 Petrol
21 Filch
23 Farewell
24 Enthusiastic, plus
25 Timber wolf
26 Clench
27 South American capital
28 Assess
32 Learned one
33 Colonel Mustard, for one
35 Performance
36 "— the ramparts ..."
38 Greek leader
39 Hauled behind
42 Island entertainment
43 War god
44 Secluded area
45 Hydrotherapy venue
46 Neither mate
48 "The Greatest"

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin Farrell, 36; Brooke Shields, 47; Sharon Gless, 69; Clint Eastwood, 82.

Happy Birthday: You have plenty to look forward to if you are ready to travel or learn something new. You'll be able to put your skills to good use and to work toward an enhanced position or reputation. Love is in the stars, and a promise or commitment will lead to a stable future. Your numbers are 11, 15, 19, 25, 32, 41, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Relax and enjoy the moment. Love is highlighted, and spending time with someone special or with a group of friends will do you good. The ideas you come up with now will open all sorts of opportunities in the not-too-distant future. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Clear up unfinished work or business. You may want to take aggressive action with regard to a job, interview or promotion, but consider just doing the best job possible without being splashy. It's results that count. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It will be hard to walk away from something you enjoy. Your personal life is looking good, but if you choose jealousy and anger over passion and pleasure, you will end up alone. Whether you are single or in a relationship, strive to get along. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotions will be difficult to control. Don't let little things bother you to the point that you damage a relationship with someone special. Responsibilities are not necessarily a bad thing. Rewards will be offered for your kindness. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do what you can to help others. A chance to make a difference for a cause you believe in is likely, if you are proactive. Love is highlighted, and a good relationship will help stabilize your life. A change in lifestyle is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Refusing to do a poor job or to cut corners will give you an edge. Stick to your game plan, be true to you and keep your standards high. Common sense and practical application will be your saving grace. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel, adventure and new friends will lead to fun. Don't sit at home or give in to someone who doesn't want to participate. Follow your heart and do what makes you happy. A change is heading your way. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It's OK to be nice, but you don't have to pay for others. When it comes to your financial situation, you must protect your assets. Collect old debts and you will feel better. Turn your home into a creative space. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll attract attention. The more involved you are in an interest you have, the broader your circle of friends will become. Someone may feel threatened or jealous of your fun-loving attitude. Make sure you don't exclude anyone. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't miss an opportunity. Jump at any chance to mingle with people who share your interests or have similar goals. Opportunity knocks, so be ready to open the door. A deal, settlement or contract will lead to extra cash. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Everything is looking up. Money is heading your way. Reunite with people from your past. Do what's right when dealing with business partners, lovers or friends. A contract, settlement or legal matter will end in your favor. Pursue your interests. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do your best, but don't relent to someone trying to control you. Take one step at a time and back away from any aggressor. Take responsibility for your actions and stand up for your rights. Don't be a chameleon. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, charming and sophisticated. You like to get your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			1			9		6
		4			8			
	5	2		4				3
3							1	
		1		7		6		
	7							9
7				5		4	8	
			4			3		
2		8			6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	8	2	9	1	5	6	3
1	3	9	6	5	4	7	8	2
2	5	6	3	7	8	1	9	4
6	9	1	8	4	7	3	2	5
5	8	3	1	6	2	9	4	7
4	7	2	5	3	9	8	1	6
9	2	5	7	8	6	4	3	1
8	6	7	4	1	3	2	5	9
3	1	4	9	2	5	6	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

I LOVE PINA COLADAS — **Solution: 8 letters**

R	L	A	N	C	S	C	T	D	R	D	N	E	L	B
U	O	L	O	T	O	H	S	A	I	S	L	A	N	D
M	O	L	M	U	G	L	A	R	P	G	L	A	S	S
B	P	E	E	I	N	C	A	K	E	E	G	R	A	L
A	U	R	(L)	O	Y	C	N	D	E	T	S	A	T	I
S	R	B	(I)	V	T	I	E	R	A	G	U	S	S	C
E	Y	M	(M)	O	R	C	U	S	O	K	B	K	E	E
D	S	U	(E)	D	A	O	E	O	Y	A	N	G	X	L
E	R	M	B	K	P	I	D	G	T	U	M	R	I	P
L	E	S	O	A	P	U	N	C	H	A	T	E	M	P
L	L	T	T	O	R	A	H	C	E	G	D	E	W	A
I	O	I	R	R	T	S	F	R	O	Z	E	N	A	E
H	O	U	E	I	A	H	C	O	C	O	N	U	T	N
C	C	R	A	L	S	W	E	E	T	O	A	S	T	I
S	O	F	T	O	L	L	E	J	U	I	C	E	S	P

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Yesterday's Answer: Questions

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Application may be obtained from Fiesta Resort's security office located on the South Wing. Closing date for applications to be submitted and considered is June 8th.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-021

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, June 1, 2012

Materials Management Manager

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his/her designee. Incumbents are responsible for providing professional management support to a variety of programs. Oversees the Warehouse Section of CUC (including Rota) to store and track all of CUC's large equipment purchases. Oversees the Procurement Section of CUC to procure all materials and contracts for CUC (for all islands). Oversees the Power Plant Procurement Section of Power Generation to procure the fuel, lubrication parts and equipment needed for the power plants of CUC (for all islands). Reviews and prepares a wide variety of technical documents and reports such as construction schedules, impact statements, budgets, disputed accounts, project reports and monthly status reports for contracts. Performs research and conducts studies related to departmental operations to include collecting and gathering data, analyzing data and making recommendations. Collects and monitors a wide variety of data to be used in monitoring and reporting. Serves as a liaison between assigned department and other departments and organizations. Performs special projects related to departmental operations. Participates in developing and implementing policies and procedures related to departmental operations. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
Salary: $54,000.00 to $67,000.00 per annum.
Position: One (1).
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, or a related field is preferred. Five to ten years of proven work experience in materials or logistics management; ten years of proven work experience if without a bachelor's degree. Knowledge of: Basic budgetary principles; Research methods; Principles and practices related to area of assignment; Applicable laws, rules and regulations. Skill in: Analyzing data; Conducting studies; Conducting research; Preparing technical reports; Preparing presentations; Drafting policies and procedures; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Skills: Must have hands-on experience and solid skills in the hotel reservations; problem solving; oral and written communication. Must be able to lead, manage, and motivate staff. Must have ability to work with international staff. Must be able to work under pressure and in a team environment.

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Experience Required: College Degree graduate, plus minimum of two continuous years experience in F&B Department at managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort.

Duties: Coordinates food service activities of hotel, restaurant, or other similar establishment or at social functions. Estimate food and beverage costs, and requisitions or purchase supplies. Confers with food preparation and other personnel to plan menus and related activities such as dining room, bar and banquet operations. Directs hiring and assignment or personnel. Investigates and resolves food quality and service complaints. May review financial transactions and monitor budget limitation. May be designated according to type of establishment or specialty.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-020

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, June 1, 2012

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a United States commonwealth adjacent Asia and about three hours south of Tokyo, Japan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Planning, design, construction management, and operations of water and wastewater systems in a marine environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements of federal grants for water and wastewater systems. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Water and Wastewater Divisions, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.**

SALARY: $85,000 to $110,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified.

(Plus negotiable relocation costs to and from the NMI if hired from outside the NMI, but not to exceed $15,000 for relocation to the NMI and not to exceed $5,000 for relocation away from the NMI)

POSITION(S): One.

CONTRACT: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Master's Degree in Civil (or Environmental), Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of directly related experience in a water or wastewater utility. Must be a licensed professional engineer from a U.S. state or territory. An engineer with an active NCEES Record preferred. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

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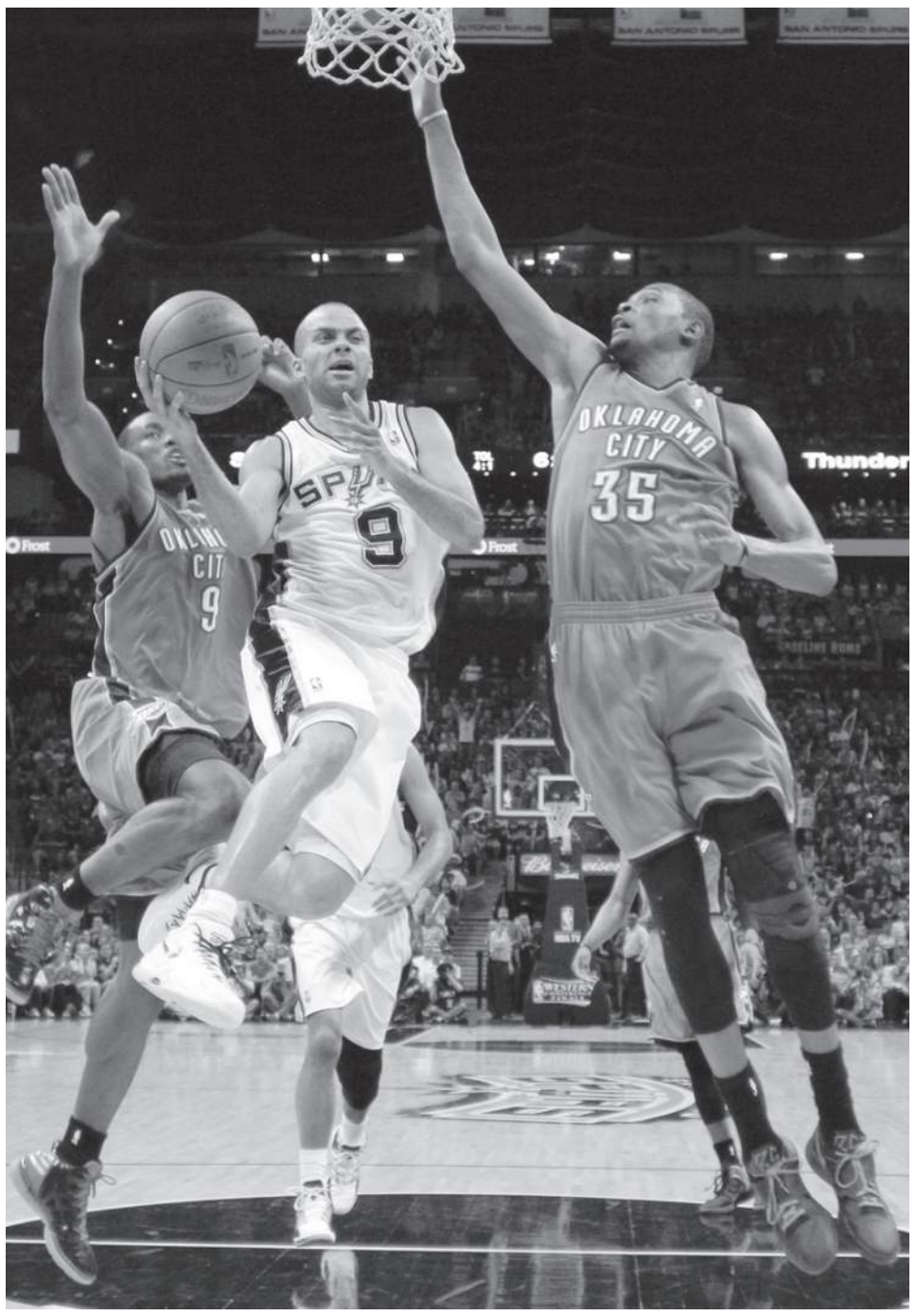
Durant, Westbrook can't rescue Thunder in Game 2



AP

San Antonio Spurs point guard Tony Parker (9), of France, shoots under pressure from Oklahoma City Thunder power forward Serge Ibaka (9), from the Republic of Congo, and Kevin Durant (35) during the second half of Game 2 in their NBA basketball Western Conference finals playoff series, Tuesday, May 29, 2012, in San Antonio.

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder finally found a way to slow down the San Antonio Spurs. It still wasn't enough to beat them.

Tony Parker had 34 points and eight assists, Manu Ginobili added 20 points and the Spurs stayed perfect in the playoffs with a 120-111 victory in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals Tuesday night.

Kevin Durant scored 31 points, Russell Westbrook had 27 points and eight assists and James Harden rebounded from a rough Game 1 to score 30 points for the Thunder, who have lost two straight for the first time since early April. Oklahoma City dropped to 15-4 in games after losses this season.

"There are no moral victories for us," Durant said. "We were down. We dug ourselves a hole. We did what we normally do, which is fight all game, and we lost."

The Thunder trailed by as many as 22 points in the third quarter and by 16 when coach Scott Brooks resorted to intentionally fouling Spurs center Tiago Splitter, a 32 percent free-throw shooter in the playoffs entering the game.

Splitter went 5 for 10 from the line over a 54-second span before Spurs coach Gregg Popovich replaced him with Tim Duncan, and Oklahoma City trailed by the same margin—16—that it did when Brooks called for the "Hack-a-Splitter" strategy.

The Spurs seemed to lose their offensive flow after that, and the Thunder rallied in the fourth quarter.

"There's a reason why you do it, to kill the rhythm," Parker said. "I think it got us out of our rhythm."

Oklahoma City got within six points with just over 5 minutes to play. But Parker, Ginobili and Tim Duncan helped San Antonio finish off the Thunder.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Oklahoma City.

"We're upset about that loss," Durant said. "We've got to go home and regroup and watch film, see how we can get better."

The Thunder are 5-0 on their raucous home court in the playoffs. But only 14 teams in NBA playoff history have overcome 2-0 deficits to win a series, and the Spurs show no signs of letting the Thunder back in it.

"First, we've got to worry about Game 3," Westbrook said. "Regardless of what's going on with this last game or the next game, we've got to worry about Game 3 and come in with the same mindset and try to get a win."

The Spurs set an NBA record with their 20th consecutive victory bridging the regular season and the playoffs. They came in sharing the longest such streak with the 2000-01 Lakers, who won 19 straight before losing to Philadelphia in the first game of the finals.

Those Lakers went on to win the championship and Parker's performance is yet another reason to think the Spurs will do the same.

Guided by their All-Star point guard, San Antonio shredded Oklahoma City's defense with pinpoint passes for three quarters. The Spurs were shooting 63 percent from the field and 64 percent from 3-point range at one point in the third quarter.

Parker went 16 for 21 from the field, including a 3-pointer.

"Tony's been great all year," Popovich said. "He's been really focused the entire season."

San Antonio picked up where it left off from the 39-point fourth quarter that turned Game 1 on Sunday. With sharp passes and hot shooting, the Spurs jumped to a 19-9 lead after the Thunder missed six of their first seven shots and had three turnovers in the first 4 minutes.

The Spurs shot 58 percent (22 of 38) and had 13 assists in the first half. They also cut down their turnovers, committing only six in the first half after giving away 14 in the first two quarters of Game 1.

San Antonio resumed picking apart Oklahoma City's defense with precision passes after the break, scoring on five straight possessions. The biggest cheer from the crowd came after Ginobili flipped a behind-the-back pass to Parker in the corner for another 3 and the lead ballooned to 78-58.

"We have seen what we can do when we play as a team," Harden said. "We fought hard, but it was too much of a deficit to come back (from) late in the game."

The Spurs missed 12 of 15 shots during one stretch, but Parker hit an off-balance, high-arcing jumper with 3:39 left for a 107-96 lead and San Antonio controlled the game from there.

"Our guys played hard," Brooks said. "Unfortunately, we came away with nothing the last few days."

Bobcats hope draft lottery answers a cry for help

NEW YORK (AP)—After the worst season in NBA history, the Charlotte Bobcats could use a player such as Anthony Davis.

Unfortunately for Michael Jordan's team, it's been a long time since lottery luck shined on the team needing it most.

The Bobcats hope that trend ends Wednesday, when they have the best odds of earning the No. 1 pick in next month's draft.

Charlotte has a 25 percent chance of victory, the reward for its 7-59 record that was the lowest winning percentage (.106) in league history. Davis is the college player of the year after leading Kentucky to the national championship. He is considered the top prize available.

Not since 2004, when the Orlando Magic drafted Dwight Howard, has the team with the worst record won the lottery. Minnesota dropped a spot to second last year, when the Cleveland Cavaliers moved up with a pick owed to them by the Los Angeles Clippers and took Rookie of the Year Kyrie Irving.

The Bobcats, who dropped their final 23 games, appear in much more dire straits than some teams that were able to recover from their lottery letdowns.

"You could make the case that they don't have, at any position, a top-15 player at their position. So they're not in the top half of starters at any place on their roster, which is a tough place to be and that's why a guy like Anthony Davis, if they do draft him, he's going to be expected to turn it around. But there are no quick fixes," former NBA coach and current ESPN analyst Jeff Van Gundy said Tuesday during a conference call.

The Washington Wizards have a 19.9 percent chance of picking first, while Cleveland (13.8 percent) and New Orleans (13.7) have the next-best chances.

The lottery is back in New York for the first time since 1993, moving to the Disney/ABC Times Square Studio from its longtime home in Secaucus, N.J. because the NBA Entertainment facility there no longer houses a television studio.

Maybe that's a good omen for the Nets, who are also going from New Jersey to New York. The now Brooklyn Nets have a 7.5 percent chance of moving up from the No. 6 spot to land the top pick, and if they don't end up in the top three their selection goes to Portland as part of this season's Gerald Wallace trade.

The Nets are one of the recent teams that came up empty after a dismal season, settling for the No. 3 pick two years ago after a 70-loss season. Though there are occasional complaints about the format, NBA Commissioner David Stern has said there's been little call to change it.

Donnie Nelson, the president of basketball operations and general manager of the Dallas Mavericks, believes that's a good thing.

"I think the system works pretty well," Nelson said. "The problem you run into if you do away with it is there's the potential for teams tanking games at the end of the season and that can get kind of ugly. That's not a path you want to go down."

Van Gundy, like many, thinks the lottery is a way to police teams from trying to lose in hopes of securing the No. 1 pick and even argued for dropping the weighted system that gives the Bobcats 250 out of 1,000 chances, taking away even more incentive to lose. Though he said the team played hard, he used the word "tanking" Tuesday, essentially accusing Jordan's organization of not trying to win this season.

"They have, I think, a very poor roster by design," he said. "I think they are trying to do what most people in the front office would agree with how they're doing it. Get bad to try to get good. People have done it before. San Antonio Spurs, I think it was 18 wins when David Robinson was hurt and they got Tim Duncan (in 1997) and for 15 years they've been just phenomenal. So what they're doing I think goes to what most people in the NBA would do, but it's by design."

The Cavaliers are hoping lightning strikes twice.

Last year, owner Dan Gilbert's 15-year-old son, Nick, proved to be a lucky charm when he represented the team at the drawing in New Jersey. The young Gilbert, wearing hipster glasses and a bow tie, endeared himself to Cleveland fans after the team won the lottery by looking into the camera and saying, "What's not to like?" a catchphrase that helped the city get over the loss of LeBron James.

The Cavs are sending Nick again along with the same traveling party that brought the team luck a year ago.

His dad recently joked that his son better bring home a winner.

"If he doesn't get the first pick, he will be grounded all summer," Gilbert joked. "This is a very important draft for us. We hope to add some key pieces this summer."

Irving also will attend the lottery along with the Gilberts, former Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar and current Browns players Josh Cribbs and Joe Haden.

General manager Rich Cho will be on stage for the Bobcats, whose odds are best (35.8 percent) of picking fourth. The lottery sets the top three picks, with the remainder of the 14 participants drafting in inverse order of their records.

The draft is June 28 in Newark, N.J.

Del Negro to return as Clippers coach next season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vinny Del Negro will be back as coach of the Los Angeles Clippers next season.

The team said Tuesday that it has exercised its contract option on him to return for a third season. Del Negro led the Clippers to a 40-26 record during the lockout-shortened season and the second round of the playoffs, where they were swept by the San Antonio Spurs.

Their winning percentage of 60.6 this season was the highest in franchise history.

Del Negro has a 72-76 record in two seasons with the team.

He came under pressure in March after the Clippers lost three consecutive games, but they responded by winning 13 of their next 15 games on the way to making the playoffs for the first time in six years.

Serena loses in 1st round at French Open

PARIS (AP)—For more than a decade, whatever the state of her health or her game, no matter the opponent or arena, Serena Williams always won first-round matches at Grand Slam tournaments.

Always.

Until Tuesday at the French Open. Until Williams came within two points of victory nine times, yet remarkably failed to close the deal against unheralded and 111th-ranked Virginie Razzano of France.

Until a theatrical, 23-minute final game filled with 30 points, more than enough for an entire set, featuring ebbs and flows, high-pressure shotmaking and nerves—and even thunderous protests from the crowd when the chair umpire docked Razzano a point. That look-away-and-you-miss-something game included five wasted break points for Williams, and seven match points that she saved, until Razzano finally converted her eighth, 3 hours and 3 minutes after they began playing.

All told, until Tuesday, Williams was 46 for 46 in openers at tennis' top venues, and those encounters tended to be routine and drama-free, befitting a woman so good that the goal—and 13 times, the end result—was a major championship.

Not this time. Now Williams' first-round Grand Slam record is 46-1 after as stunning a denouement as could be in a 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3 loss to Razzano on the red clay at Roland Garros.

The fifth-seeded Williams, considered by many a pre-tournament favorite, led 5-1 in the second-set tiebreaker, before dropping the next 13 points in a row. Suddenly, her shots didn't always carry their usual oomph; her court coverage was ordinary.

"I've been through so much in my life, and ... I'm not happy, by no means," said Williams, her eyes welling with tears. "I just always think things can be worse."

AP

Serena Williams of the US kneels on the clay in her first round match against Virginie Razzano of France at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Tuesday May 29, 2012.

The 30-year-old American returned to action last year after missing about 10 months because of a series of health scares, including two foot operations and blood clots, a scary stretch she says altered her worldview.

The rowdy spectators in Court Philippe Chatrier would have been pulling for Razzano anyway, of course, because of her citizenship. But their support was particularly strong because of her recent heartbreak, well-known in France: Razzano's fiancé—Stephane Vidal, also her longtime coach—died at age 32 of a brain tumor in May 2011, a little more than a week before her first-round match at last year's French Open.

He had encouraged her to go ahead and enter the tournament, so she did, honoring his memory by stepping on court to play, a black ribbon pinned to her shirt. When she walked out of the locker room for what turned out to be a straight-set loss, she wore a gold chain that Vidal had given her as a Valentine's Day gift a few years earlier.

"Honestly, the past is the past," Razzano said Tuesday, when she dealt with leg cramps starting in the second set. "I think now I did my mourning. I feel good today. It took time."

Said Williams: "I know of her story and her husband. We all have stories. I mean, I almost died, and Venus is struggling herself. So, you know, it's life. You know, it just depends on how you deal with it. She obviously is dealing with it really well."

Williams' exit was by far the most newsworthy development on Day 3 at Roland Garros, where Maria Sharapova won 6-0, 6-0, and Rafael Nadal began his bid for a record seventh French Open championship with a straight-set victory.

Williams entered Tuesday having won her previous 17 matches, all on clay. She withdrew before what would have been her most recent match, a semifinal at the Italian Open on May 19, citing a bad lower back, but said on Friday she was better, then refused to place blame on that injury after being beaten by Razzano.

"No, no, no. I didn't feel anything abnormal," said Williams, who counts the 2002 French Open among her 13 Grand Slam singles trophies. "I was 100 percent healthy."

Occasionally after losing points, Williams would bend forward and lean on her racket frame, as though perhaps stretching her lower back. She also clutched at that spot and whacked her racket there after miscues.

And there were plenty of those, 47 in all, 11 more than her foe. That's where Williams put the emphasis when trying to fathom how she let her big lead slip away. From 5-1 in the tiebreaker, she lost the next six points to end that set, then the first seven points of the third.

"I tried. I kept going for my shots, which always works for me," Williams said. "It didn't work out today."

It sure seemed she'd be OK when up 5-4 in the second set and at 15-30 on Razzano's serve. The match was about 1 1/2 hours old - only halfway through, it would turn out - and Williams was two points from ending it. Razzano responded with an ace. At 6-5 in that set, Razzano showed real jitters, double-faulting twice in a row to again make it 15-30. Again, Williams was two points away. And again, Razzano held serve to extend the match.

Then came the tiebreaker, with Williams apparently in control. At 5-2, Razzano hit a shot near the baseline that Williams let go, thinking it was out. But the chair umpire, Eva Asderaki, ruled the ball was in. Asderaki overruled a call on the next point, too, helping Razzano.

Asderaki would play a key role, first warning Razzano for hindrance, then twice awarding a point to Williams because the Frenchwoman grunted loudly while exerting herself during extended exchanges. Williams found the whole thing sort of bemusing: Asderaki was the chair umpire who immediately—with no warning—took a point away from Williams during her loss to Sam Stosur in September's U.S. Open final.

"Well, you know, she's not a favorite amongst the tour," Williams said. "I just really had a flashback there."

Powerful Angels blast Yankees for 8th straight win

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Albert Pujols and Mark Trumbo homered and Dan Haren pitched into the eighth inning as the Los Angeles Angels extended their longest winning streak in nearly three years to eight games with a 5-1 victory over the New York Yankees on Tuesday night.

Mike Trout hit a run-scoring triple for the Angels, who have won 11 of 15. After a rough start to a season of high expectations, Los Angeles (26-25) is above .500 for the first time since opening day.

Haren (3-5) had seven strikeouts and no walks, coming through with a strong start after the Los Angeles bullpen had to pitch nine innings in relief of injured ace Jered Weaver during Monday's 9-8 victory.

Andy Pettitte (2-2) yielded nine hits and five runs over seven-plus innings for the Yankees.

White Sox 7, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Philip Humber won for the first time since throwing a perfect game in April, helping Chicago beat Tampa Bay to extend its winning streak to seven games.

Hideki Matsui homered in his Tampa Bay debut. The Rays purchased the 2009 World Series MVP's contract from Triple-A Durham before the game.

Mariners 10, Rangers 3

In Arlington, John Jaso drove in three runs and Jason Vargas pitched into the seventh inning as Seattle beat Texas to end a five-game losing streak.

Jaso's two-run homer in the second put the Mariners ahead to stay on the way to matching their highest run total this season.

Red Sox 6, Tigers 3

At Boston, David Ortiz homered and hit two doubles as the Red Sox moved above .500 for the first time this season, tagging Justin Verlander for 10 hits in a win over Detroit.

Daniel Bard (5-5) pitched 5 1-3 innings for Boston, allowing two runs on five hits with four strikeouts and two walks as the Red Sox improved to 25-24.

Blue Jays 8, Orioles 6

In Toronto, Brett Lawrie had three hits and three RBIs, and Ricky Romero won for the seventh time in nine starts against Baltimore.

Romero (6-1) improved to 7-1 with a 2.43 ERA in his past nine starts against the Orioles.

Adam Jones hit two homers, extending his hitting streak to 20 games, and Chris Davis added a two-run drive in the ninth but it wasn't enough for Baltimore. The Orioles have lost four straight and seven of nine, but remain tied with Tampa Bay atop the AL East.

Royals 8, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Mike Moustakas had a career-best four RBIs to help rookie Will Smith get his first major league win, leading Kansas City over Cleveland.

Moustakas hit a two-run homer off Justin Masterson (2-4) in the first and singled in two runs in the second.

Twins 3, Athletics 2

In Minneapolis, Josh Willingham hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Minnesota over Oakland.

Justin Morneau added two doubles for the Twins, who trailed 2-0 heading into the ninth thanks to a strong start from A's right-hander Jarrod Parker. Brian Fuentes (2-1) came on and allowed a single and a walk before Willingham hit a 1-0 pitch into the bullpen.

Nationals 3, Marlins 1

In Miami, Anibal Sanchez allowed only an unearned run in seven innings to remain unbeaten in 19 starts against Washington, helping the Miami Marlins beat the Nationals 3 to break the club record for victories in a month.

The Marlins are 20-8 since May 1, best in major league baseball, and they're six games above .500 for the first time since last June 4.

Braves 5, Cardinals 4

In Atlanta, Dan Uggla hit a three-run homer, Michael Bourn also hit a home run and the Braves ended their longest losing streak in more than two years, holding off the Cardinals after eight straight losses.

Bourn led off the bottom of the first inning with his fifth homer of the season, tying a career high. Uggla made it 4-0 in the third, hitting one into the seats in left-center field.

Cubs 5, Padres 3

In Chicago, Alfonso Soriano homered, Jeff Samardzija struck out eight in seven innings and the Cubs beat the Padres.

Soriano hit a solo homer to center field in the sixth. After going homerless in his first 30 games this season, Soriano has seven home runs in his last 13 games.

Mets 6, Phillies 3

At New York, Jeremy Hefner earned his first victory in the majors, highlighting the occasion by homering for his first big league hit as the Mets beat the Phillies.

The 26-year-old rookie became the first major league pitcher to hit his first homer in his first win since 2002, when Dennis Tankersley did it with San Diego, STATS LLC said.

Reds 8, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Jay Bruce had three hits, including a pair of doubles, Todd Frazier drove in two runs to cap an eventful day and the Reds cruised by the Pirates.

Homer Bailey (4-3) gave up one run on four hits, walking one and striking out four while pitching his second career complete game.

Brewers 2, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer, getting back at Dodgers fans who booed his every move and leading the Brewers to a victory over Los Angeles.

Mike Fiers (1-0) allowed a run and five hits in seven innings, striking out three and walking none in his first major league start and third appearance after being recalled from Triple-A Nashville. The 26-year-old right-hander gave up his only run when Andre Ethier doubled home Ivan De Jesus in the sixth for his NL-leading 43rd RBI.

Giants 3, Diamondbacks 1

In San Francisco, Melky Cabrera got his 50th hit of the month to spark the go-ahead rally and Buster Posey drove in a pair of runs to lead the Giants to a victory over the Diamondbacks.

Posey drove in Cabrera with an RBI double in the sixth inning to tie the game and followed Cabrera's single in the eighth with a sacrifice fly that scored Ryan Theriot to make it 2-1 and help the Giants win for the 12th time in 18 games.

DJ Fish, Rehab finish atop B divisions

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

SOS Bar & Grill's DJ Fish and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Rehab finished the season as Saipan Electronic Dart Association's B-Fanihi and B-Flame Tree 2012 Winter/Summer Bud Light Dart League champions, respectively, after the conclusion of last week's matchups, while, Jonny's AG Sakude! remains the leader in the Inter-Government Division.

B-Fanihi's DJ Fish finished up its first place season way out in front with a win-loss record of 140-70 following a 10-5 road victory over third-ranked sister Lights Out (113-97) last Thursday.

Twenty-three games back is Bammy's Bar & Grill's DRP 2 (117-93) who took runner up honors, ending its run with a 9-6 home win over Naked Fish Bar & Grill's IT&E-Na'Gupu (106-104), while Jonny's Adventurers (89-121) downed Poseidon's One Shot (81-129), 11-4, at home and Es'y Kitchen Shooters (108-102) pounced VFW Post 3457's Dutty Gunz (86-124), 13-2, also at home.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
SOS Bar & Grill's DJ Fish finished first place in SEDA's B Fanihi with a 140-70 record after the conclusion of last week's final pairings.

Also on Thursday, B-Flame Tree's Rehab maintained its two-game lead in the division with an 11-4 road victory over fourth place Retsa Sakude II (105-105). Rehab finished the year at 127-83.

VFW's Good Guys II (125-85) tried for the pass on the final turn, but its 11-4 nod over SOS' What U Got (85-125) was not enough and settled for second place honors in front of Joe's Steakhouse's Skorgazzzums (123-87) which pelted Bammy's Lilapuching (84-126), 12-3, on the road.

Moreover, 19th Hole Bar's Dart Freaks (101-109) finished its season with a 10-5 win over self-titled The Water Front (90-120).

SEDA's Inter-Government frontrunner AG Sakude! improved its win-loss card to 158-52 after toppling third-ranked DPS-Bad Boyz (69-129), 13-2, in a home draw last Friday, while Bammy's second place Team CUC-Powerplant(118-117) went into Naked Fish and handled NMC-PROA (60-150), 10-5.

In addition, the brackets are set for tonight's B-league Bud Light Cup postseason tournaments. Games normally start around 7:30pm

The B-Fanihi matchups include DJ Fish taking on DRP 2 at Bammy's, Lights Out clashing with the Kitchen Shooters at Es'y Kithcen, IT&E Na'Gupu challenging the Adventurers at Jonny's, and the Dutty Gunz squaring off against One Shot at Poseidon.

B-Flame Tree's bracket shows Rehab facing off with Good Goys II at VFW, the Skoregazzzums meeting up with Retsa Sakude II at Jonny's, the Dart Freaks colliding with host The Water Front, and What U Got pitted against Lilapuching at Bammy's.

The Inter-Government regular season is still ongoing. Details of other divisional SEDA Bud Light Cup opening rounds will be released later this week.

Summer Soccer Camp starts next month

The Saipan Soccer School will conduct its 2012 Summer Soccer Camp for U8 and U10 boys and girls starting next month at its facility inside the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Registration is free and will start on June 11. Sessions will last for two weeks and will run from Monday to Friday. Sessions are as follows:

- 1st session – June 11 to June 22
- 2nd session – June 25 to July 6
- 3rd session – July 9 to July 20
- 4th session – July 23 to Aug. 3

U10 boys and girls sessions are from 8am to 9:30am and U8 boys and girls sessions are from 10am to 11:30am. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children and enjoy the basic and advanced fundamentals and skills of the game.

For more information, contact the Saipan Soccer School Office at 235-8747 ext 148 or call Mae Ito at 287-3607 or Jersh Angeles at 285-7387.

Futsal league kicks off June 18

In related news, the Saipan Soccer School will have three divisions when its 2012 Futsal League kicks off on June 18.

The three divisions are made up of the youth division (U14 boys and U18 boys), the men's division, and women's division.

Registration fee for all players is $10 and deadline for registration/waiver forms with fee is on June 15 with the league starting.

The school said players must complete and sign a registration and waiver form and players under the age of 18 must have their parent's or guardian's signature.

Schedules and other information will be handed out once teams are defined.

For more information, contact the Saipan Soccer School office at 235-8747 ext. 148 or call Mae Ito at 287-3607 or Jersh Angeles at 285-7387. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

HUSTLERS

From Page 28

cho that helped score hit batsman Many Flores and an RBI single by MacGarrete Duenas.

Ol'Aces left a man stranded at third base in the bottom frame and though they managed to pull the brakes on the Hustlers' offense from that point, could not posture a realistic comeback in the late innings.

The Hustlers tapped Camacho to relieve Villagomez in the fifth inning and he secured the goose egg with little nuisance from what was statistically the most high-powered offense in the league during the regular season.

The Ol'Aces were held to just two hits in the game compared to 10 strikeouts and committed six errors out on the field.

The Hustlers are also comprised of Kenta Castro, Dave Demapan, Jonakin Deleon Guerrero, McJarrel Espina, Joe Sablan, Irvin Saralu, and Tim Rabago.

They are coached by Joseph Flores, Frank Hocog, and Audie Maratita.

KOBLERVILLE

From Page 28

points each in the 100m and 400m runs, 4x100m, 4x400m, and mixed relay races, and softball throw, and six apiece in the 800m run and long jump.

Saipan Community School came in at second with its 46 points, followed by Garapan (40), GTC (23), and Kagman (22).

In the girls U8, GTC was the runaway winner with its 82 points. It also earned 16 points from the 100m run and 14 each in the long jump and 200m race. GTC then gained 10 markers each in the 400m and 60m runs and six in the 4x100m relay to beat Oleai (50) and Garapan (36).

Garapan asserted its might in the boys U10 division, getting points in eight of the 11 events contested in the age group. The Mallards totaled 85 points with the most coming from the softball throw (16) to prevail over Koblerville (66) and WSR (62).

In the girls U10, WSR was the top finisher with 90 points. The Kingfisher was also a powerhouse in the softball throw, getting 22 points, and had 18 in the long jump to stun favored Koblerville (82 points). Garapan rounded out the Top 3 with its 54 points.

The Mallards got their second championship trophy when they ruled the boys U12 division after tallying 105 points. Garapan lorded it over in the 400m run (25 points) and softball throw (22 points) to blow out WSR (70) and Dandan Elementary School (40).

Koblerville duplicated Garapan's twin wins after reigning supreme in the boys U12 division. The Umangs logged 93 points after a strong showing in the 400m run (18 points) and softball throw (16 points). Koblerville won over Dandan (46) and Garapan (42).

Hopwood, MHS deliver

In the junior high and high school divisions, Hopwood and Marianas High School lived up to expectations.

The Hilitais won both the boys and girls U14 divisions in convincing fashions. In the boys division, Hopwood collected 208 points, built on its impressive performance in the 60m (30 points), 100m (28), and 400m (29) runs. Tinian Junior High School came in at second with 64 points, while SCS finished third (58).

In the girls division, Hopwood dominated the sprints and was also a force in throwing events to gain 280 points and beat Tinian (36) anew and SCS (35). Saipan International School and Whispering Palms also joined the junior high division.

In the boys high school division, MHS got twin digits in all 14 events for 226 points, way ahead of Kagman High School (70) and Saipan Southern High School (62). In the girls division, the Lady Dolphins were also miles away with their 195 markers against the 68 and 56 of Southern and Kagman, respectively.

MATANSA

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Shankweiler, Cameron Halstead, Lyka and Angelica Sally, Marlouie Santiago, David Mafnas, Keyona Tudela, and Hana Mafnas. Coaching the squad are Joven Cruz and Rengesuul Yobech.

"I think our team was considered the underdog in the game against Tan Holdings because they have a few national players and U15 boys in their roster. We played a solid team game and fought very hard to win. They gave their best," Cruz said when asked to comment on Matansa's upset victory.

De Leon got things going for Matansa early when he found the back of the net just four minutes into the winner-take-all finale. Then Matansa held on defense to shut out Tan Holdings and protect a 1-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Matansa also got off to a good start with Ermitanio this time scoring with only five minutes gone by in the payoff period and giving the team a 2-0 advantage.

Behind by two, Tan Holdings found a new lease of life when it drew a goal from Christopher Aninzo in the 37th minute. However, Matansa's defense hung in there to preserve the lead and complete the upset.

Matansa and Tan Holdings arranged their FA Cup duel after outclassing separate foes on May 23. At pitch 1, Matansa edged Shirley's FC, 2-1, while Tan Holdings foiled an all-Matansa finale after a 2-0 victory over Matansa girls U15.

De Leon also scored in the semis win, putting Matansa in the board in the first half, while Ocanada drilled the other goal in the second half. Shirley's lone goal was courtesy of Edwim Kim in the second half.

Tan Holdings also logged on each goal in the first and second half with both goals coming from Louie Bryle Calayag.

Five other teams joined the FA Cup—MP United Blue and Silver (U12), Paire girls U15, MPU girls U15, and Tan Holdings girls U15. These teams played in separate leagues and after the spring season, they were put in one group to compete for the FA Cup.

MULTIPLE

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McKenzie (470), Guam's Maddison Willis (425), and Gina Sablan (383), who totaled 1,832 pinfalls. Sue Ellis (472), Lucy Deleon Guerrero (455), and Diana (445) and Carrie (434) Camacho rounded out the Top 3 with their 1,806 pinfalls.

The team of Omechelang (462), Gigi Zapanta (379), Diane Chong (447), and Ron Cal (483) placed fourth with 1,771 pinfalls, while the quartet of Janette Regaspi (430), Gloria Pagaro (455), Marie Candido (371), and Myrna Santos (443) ended up at fifth with 1,699.

In the all events, Villavicencio collected 1,543, counting her 480 in the singles event (eighth best), for a 40-pinfall win over eventual May Masters champion and singles winner Diana Camacho (1,503). Cal completed the Top 3 with her 1,471 pinfalls (515 in singles, 474 in doubles, and 483 in team.

Diana Camacho took the singles crown after carding 545 pinfalls, 19 pinfalls ahead of runner-up Diane Chong (526). Gloria Omechelang earned 524 to finish third. Camacho started strong in the singles event with her 199 pinfalls, followed by another 190-plus performance in Game 2 (191) before slowing down in Game 3 (155). Chong made progress in three games with her 168 in the opening game and 181 and 177 in the second and third games, while Omechelang had her best showing in Game 2 (202), but still fell to third, as she had only 154 in Game 1 and 174 in Game 3.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	29	21	.580	–
Tampa Bay	29	21	.580	–
New York	26	23	.531	2 1/2
Toronto	26	24	.520	3
Boston	25	24	.510	3Ω

Central Division

Chicago	28	22	.560	–
Cleveland	27	22	.551	1/2
Detroit	23	26	.469	4 1/2
Kansas City	20	28	.417	7
Minnesota	17	32	.347	10 1/2

West Division

Texas	31	19	.620	–
Los Angeles	26	25	.510	5 1/2
Oakland	22	28	.440	9
Seattle	22	30	.423	10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	29	20	.592	–
Miami	28	22	.560	1 1/2
New York	28	22	.560	1 1/2
Atlanta	27	24	.529	3
Philadelphia	26	25	.510	4

Central Division

Cincinnati	28	21	.571	–
St. Louis	27	23	.540	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	24	25	.490	4
Houston	22	27	.449	6
Milwaukee	21	28	.429	7
Chicago	17	32	.347	11

West Division

Los Angeles	32	17	.653	–
San Francisco	27	23	.540	5 1/2
Arizona	22	28	.440	10 1/2
Colorado	19	29	.396	12 1/2
San Diego	17	34	.333	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U17 MBT Awards Ceremony

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO

The Guam U17 national men's team are all smiles after accepting their championship trophy during the 2012 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament awards ceremony held after the finals last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Guam U17 national women's team poses with Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, right, and other sponsors of the 2012 17-and-under MBT.

Palau's U17 boys team finished second to Guam in the U17 MBT.

CNMI 1 finished runner-up to Guam in the U17 girls division of the MBT.

CNMI 2 finished third place in the girls division of the 2012 MBT.

The girls All Tournament Team poses with Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and other sponsors of the 2012 MBT. From left, IT&E's Norman Del Rosario, Flores, CNMI 1's Liamwar Rangamar and Rachel Abrams, Guam's Destiny Castro, CNMI 1's Jamie Mendoza, Guam's Kali Benavente, and Tony Rogolofoi of BANMI.

The CNMI U17 national men's team settled for third place in the 2012 MBT.

The boys All Tournament Team made up of, from left, Palau's Marvic Ngchar, CNMI 2's Carlo De Leon, CNMI 1's Kack Aranda, and Guam's Sammy Setik, pose with Saipan Mayor Donald Flores. Not in photo is Tinian's Darius Pettis.

Guam twins Sammy (12) and Sam (11) Setik pose with CNMI twins Rochelle (10) and Michelle (9) Kautz.

Serena loses in 1st round at French Open
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Sports

Durant, Westbrook can't rescue Thunder in Game 2
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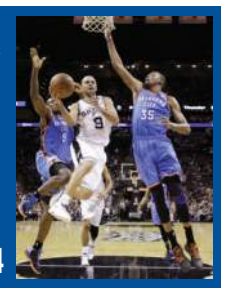

Hustlers blank Ol'Aces to win Big League

The Hustlers pose for group shot after topping Ol'Aces in the Big League championship game last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

After playing second fiddle the past two years, the Paradise Island Animal Hospital-Hustlers finally got over the hump by skunking two-time defending champion Docomo Pacific-Ol'Aces, 6-0, in the Saipan Little League's Big Division finals last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Hustlers broke out of the gate with four runs off four hits and a couple of errors late in the very first inning.

Kevin Villagomez lead off with a single and was driven home by Brian Camacho.

Camacho scored off a base rip by Jeremy Lizama and MacGarry Scaliem belted an RBI triple and came all the way around off a wild throw.

Villagomez hit the ground running from the mound as well and dealt four scoreless innings, giving up just two hits with six strikeouts.

Ol'Aces held down the Hustlers for the next two innings, but the latter posted up two more runs in the fourth frame off a double by Cama-

See HUSTLERS on Page 26

Multiple triumphs for Villavicencio

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Yho Villavicencio poses with her all events trophy and cash prize during the awards ceremony for the 30th CNMI May Masters Tournament last Sunday at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Despite missing the May Masters crown, veteran bowler Yho Villavicencio was still a happy woman, as she took home multiple trophies and cash prizes during the awards ceremony for the 30th CNMI May Masters Tournament last Sunday at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Villavicencio, who finished only fourth in the May Masters race, received first place trophies in the women's all events, doubles, and team divisions and pocketed an additional $240 cash prize besides the $75 she won in the Masters tournament.

In the doubles event, Villavicencio teamed up with fellow veteran kegler Elena Soll and together, the seasoned duo collected 1,042 pinfalls to beat the mother-and-daughter tandem of Diana and Carrie Camacho (986). The Camachos also won third place with their 944 pinfalls, while Glorie Omechelang and Diana Chong netted 939 pinfalls to finish fourth.

In the team competition, Villavicencio again joined forces with Soll, along with Tess Fabie and Lala Taitano. The quartet combined for 1,855 pinfalls with Villavicencio contributing the most with her 510 pinfalls to prevail over four other teams. Fabie added 481, while Soll and Taitano scored 468 and 396, respectively, to down the foursome of Ron Cal (554), Carol

See MULTIPLE on Page 26

Koblerville, Garapan outclass foes

MARK RABAGO
Koblerville Elementary School ruled the boys U8 and girls U12 of the 2012 McDonald's 2012 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championship held mid this month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Koblerville and Garapan elementary schools emerged as the top performers in the elementary division of the 2012 McDonald's 2012 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championship held mid this month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Umangs ruled the boys U8 and girls U12 contests in the All Schools meet that ran from May 17 to 19, while the Mallards prevailed in the boys U10 and U12 age groups. Completing the division champions in the elementary group were Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (girls U8) and William S. Reyes (girls U10).

Based on the results Northern Marianas Athletics released to *Saipan Tribune* last week, Koblerville collected 88 points from the running, jumping, and throwing events in the three-day competition, getting its biggest points (16) from the 200m race. Points were awarded to schools based on how their students placed in each event. The Umang also had 10

See KOBLERVILLE on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
Matansa Football Club's U12 team pose for a group photo before their 2012 NMIFA Boys and Girls FA Cup final against Tan Holdings FC at the Hopwood Junior High School field.

Matansa U12 steals FA Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club's U12 team pulled off an upset over Tan Holdings FC, 2-1, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field to rule the 2012 NMIFA Boys and Girls FA Cup.

Joshua De Leon and James Ermitanio delivered the needed goals for Matansa to stun the unbeaten Tan Holdings FC. Completing the champion team are Ronnel Ocanada, Bradley Camacho, Gabriel Reuter, Jether Yobech, Andrie Membrere, Joshua Tenorio, Chad

See MATANSA on Page 26